PORTRAITS

OF

Illustrious Personages

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

ENGRAVED FROM

AUTHENTIC PICTURES IN THE GALLERIES OF THE NOBILITY AND THE PUBLIC COLLECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL MEMOIRS

OF THEIR LIVES AND ACTIONS,

BY

EDMUND LODGE, ESQ. F.S.A.

VOL. XI.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HARDING AND LEPARD.

1835.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME XI.

Engraved by W. T. Mitchell

RICHARD BOYLE, EARL OF BURLINGTON.

OB. 1753.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF KNAPTON IN THE COLLECTION OF

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.

London, Published Dec.r 1828 by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

RICHARD BOYLE,

THIRD EARL OF BURLINGTON.

This nobleman, who had the wisdom and courage to withdraw himself in the prime of life from the splendid vexations of courts and cabinets, to enjoy in a dignified retirement the consciousness of an unspotted fame, and the indulgence of a refined taste, was the eldest son and heir of Charles, second Earl of Burlington, and third Earl of Cork, by Juliana, daughter, and sole heir, of Henry, second son of Edward Noel, fourth Viscount Campden, and was born on the twenty-fifth of April, in the year 1695.

He is thus fairly characterised by the anonymous author, his contemporary, of a note attached to the article appropriated to his grandfather, Richard, the first Earl, in the Biographia Britannica—"I might take this opportunity of telling the reader that his Lordship inherits the virtues and abilities, as well as the estates and titles, of his family; that his merit has acquired him the most honourable reward in this kingdom, a blue riband; that he has had interest to obtain, and virtue enough to resign, great employments; that he has been a courtier above suspicion, a patriot without pique, or private views; a friend to his country in all circumstances of a public nature, as well as an honour to it in his personal accomplishments, and correct taste in the polite arts, more especially architecture, in which it is not easy to say whether his modesty or knowledge deserve applause most. But these are in a great measure beside our purpose, which is to do justice to the dead, not to court the favour of the living; nor should I think

what has been already said pardonable, but that it is no inconsiderable addition to the glory of a house, which has given Peers to all the three kingdoms, to have the present Earl of Burlington and Cork for its head, in which light I hope this liberty, taken from no other motive, will be considered and excused." Lord Orford, who lived also in his time, has left this brief but ample encomium at once on his liberality and his talents—" Never was protection and great wealth more generously and more judiciously diffused than by this great person, who had every quality of a genius and an artist, except envy."

The story of Lord Burlington's public life, if he can be said to have had any, lies in the smallest possible compass. We have no proof of his having ever betrayed even the slightest party inclination, and are left to infer, merely from remote circumstances, that he was held at least in no distaste at Court. The order of the Garter, a distinction strictly due to one so illustriously descended, for he sprung from a family more extensively ennobled than any other in the three kingdoms, was conferred on him in 1730, on the eighteenth of June, in which year he was installed; and in the following he accepted, rather in testimony, as it should seem, of his wish to be considered as an immediate servant of the Crown than from any other motive, the appointment of Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners. This however, though requiring but an unfrequent personal attendance, he resigned in 1733, and retired for the remainder of his life to the practice and the patronage of those elegant and innocent occupations in which he delighted.

Passing over slightly his skill in music, and judgment in painting, which were critically good, we will turn to his proficiency in that art of which several monuments remain to justify the praise which may be demanded for him. His munificence in promoting the publication of most expensive works on the subject of architecture was truly princely. In 1728, he bore the whole charge of preparing and publishing a series of plates in folio, which appeared under the title of " the Villas of the Ancients, by

R. Castell," and gave the profits, and the property, to the authors. In 1730, he printed " Fabriche Antiche disegnate da Andréa Palladio, e date in luce da R. Conte di Burlington," a splendid volume in folio, of which a small number of copies were taken, to be distributed in presents to his friends, and to promising artists. He soon after collected Inigo Jones's designs, and published them in the name, and for the advantage, of William Kent, a painter, an architect, and a planner of pleasure grounds, whom he had brought from Rome, and who lived mostly in his Lordship's house, where he died a few years before his noble patron. He also enabled Kent to publish the designs for Whitehall, and gave a beautiful edition of the ancient baths, from the drawings of Palladio.

His buildings, which are numerous, are believed to be wholly from his own designs, although his modesty or his beneficence, frequently gave the credit of them to others. Thus he ascribed to Kent the finest work of his own taste, the new front of that noble mansion, Burlington House, in Piccadilly, which had been built by his father, though it is certain that Kent was at the time in Italy, and perhaps unknown to him. Of the grand colonnade which he attached to it Lord Orford says, in his " Anecdotes of Painting," " I had not only never seen it, but had never heard of it, at least with any attention, when, soon after my return from Italy, I was invited to a ball at Burlington House. As I passed under the gate by night it could not strike me. At day-break, looking out of the window to see the sun rise, I was surprised with the vision of the colonnade that fronted me. It seemed one of those edifices in fairy-tales that are raised by genii in a night's time."

He erected many works also at his seat of Lonsborough, in Yorkshire, and in its neighbourhood, particularly the magnificent assembly room at York, which he not only designed but built, and for which, in 1732, the Lord Mayor and Corporation sent a deputation to return their thanks, accompanied by a compliment of the freedom of their city, in a gold box. The best known relic how-

ever at this day of his architectural taste and skill is his Villa at Chiswick, in Middlesex, now, by inheritance from him, owned by the Duke of Devonshire. That remarkable house was erected in imitation of the Villa Capra, near Vicenza, a work of his idolized Palladio, and has obtained the highest celebration from the most refined judges, though not without a candid admission of some faults.

Pope addressed to Lord Burlington the fourth epistle of his "Moral Essays," which concludes, rather hyperbolically, with these lines—

> ———— "Make falling Arts your care,
> Erect new wonders, and the old repair;
> Jones and Palladio to themselves restore,
> And be whate'er Vitruvius was before;
> Till Kings call forth the ideas of your mind,
> Proud to accomplish what such hands design'd.
> Bid harbours open, public ways extend;
> Bid Temples, worthier of the God, descend;
> Bid the broad arch the dang'rous flood contain,
> The mole projected break the roaring main;
> Back to his bounds their subject sea command,
> And roll obedient rivers through the land:
> These honours peace to happy Britain brings;
> These are imperial works, and worthy Kings."

This accomplished Nobleman died on the fourth of December, 1753. By his lady, Dorothy, eldest of the two daughters and co-heirs of William Savile, Marquis of Halifax, he had issue three daughters; Dorothy, and Juliana, who died in infancy; and Charlotte, the last born, and sole heir to her father, who was married in 1748 to William Cavendish, fourth Duke of Devonshire.

Engraved by W. Holl.

HORATIO, FIRST LORD WALPOLE.

OB. 1757.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF VANLOO, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THOMAS WALPOLE ESQ^re

London. Published Dec.r 1.1836 by Harding & Lepard. Pall Mall East.

HORATIO, FIRST LORD WALPOLE,

Was the second surviving son of Robert Walpole, of Houghton, in Norfolk; grandson of Sir Edward, who received the order of the Bath from Charles the Second, in reward for zealous services in the restoration; and a younger brother to that eminent statesman of the last century, to whom he was little inferior in sagacity, and equal in integrity. His mother was Mary, only daughter and heir of Sir Geoffery Barwel, of Rougham, in Suffolk.

He was born on the eighth of December, 1678, and received his education on the foundation of Eton, and afterwards at King's College, in Cambridge, of which he was admitted a scholar when in the twentieth year of his age, and chosen a fellow in May, 1702. After some hesitation in the choice of a profession, he resolved to adopt that of the law, and took chambers in Lincoln's Inn, where he remained not long, for in 1705 he accepted the office of secretary to General, afterwards Earl, Stanhope, envoy to the Archduke Charles, whose claim to the then disputed crown of Spain the allied powers had warmly espoused. In this employment he became sensible not only of his talent but of his taste for public business, and this impulse, together with the example and the rising interest of his brother Robert, who was already distinguished in Parliament, and attached to Queen Anne's whig ministry, determined him to embrace a political life. He became private secretary to Mr. Boyle, afterwards Lord Carleton, in that minister's several offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and afterwards of Secretary of State; and in 1709 accompanied Lord Townshend

to the Hague in the same capacity, on the appointment of that nobleman to the station of Plenipotentiary, jointly with the Duke of Marlborough, at the Congress of Gertruydenberg. He not only acquitted himself in this office to the entire satisfaction of his principals, but is said to have acquired, together with a degree of confidence which extended far beyond the limits of its actual occasions, their real esteem and friendship. Townshend indeed became unalterably attached to him, and received in return the most constant fidelity. He quitted, for the time, his incipient connection with public affairs on the retirement from office of that nobleman in 1711; was brought into Parliament by him in 1713; and joined the whigs, to whom indeed the political bias of his family had always leaned.

To that party, which might be said to be now headed by his brother and his friend Lord Townshend, George the First on his accession committed the management of public affairs. The latter, who was immediately appointed a Secretary of State, placed him in the post of under secretary, and in the autumn of the succeeding year, 1715, his brother, who had rapidly and deservedly risen to the station of prime minister, removed him to that of secretary to the Treasury. The fitness however which he had already manifested for diplomatic employment almost immediately detached him temporarily from the occupations of that office, and he was associated to General Cadogan, the English minister at the Hague, whose talents were thought incompetent to certain complicated negotiations which the circumstances of the time had suddenly required. The chief objects of these were to gain the consent of the States to the triple alliance with England and France, and to a defensive treaty between the former and the Emperor; and he succeeded in both, with an address and promptness which surprised all parties concerned. The result to himself was severe mortification. He had been authorised during the negotiation to assure the States, and had so done, that no treaty should be concluded with France without their participation. The King however, impatient to bind a court not less fickle than artful, had in the mean

time completed a treaty with the Abbé du Bois, its minister at Hanover, and Secretary Stanhope, by whom it had been conducted there, dispatched instructions for its signature to the Plenipotentiaries at the Hague; Walpole nobly refused, and wrote to Stanhope, requesting to be instantly recalled. "Having plighted," says he in his letter, "my faith, my honour, and my conscience, in his Majesty's name to the States that nothing of this nature should be done, if I should afterwards sign with the Abbé, in violation of these sacred and solemn assurances, which I repeated but last Tuesday in a conference, I should never be able to show my ignominious head here again. And therefore I plainly see that this business, in which I thought that I should have some share of credit, will end in my ruin, because, although I shall ever think it the last misfortune to disobey so good and gracious a sovereign, yet I must freely confess I had rather starve, nay die, than do a thing that gives such a terrible wound to my honour and conscience, and will make me for ever incapable of serving the King any more, especially in this place, where I have at present some little credit and interest."

Such was the spirited independence of one who was but making his first steps in the profession of a statesman. He persevered firmly in insisting on his recal, and obtained it with difficulty; but had scarcely arrived in London when the sudden discovery of certain intrigues against them by the Lords Stanhope and Sunderland, who headed what was called the Hanover Party, and were then with the King in that State, compelled his brother and Lord Townshend to despatch thither instantly a most confidential person, and he was appointed to execute their commission. He expostulated with their rivals with a warmth and candour which were always the chief features of his disposition, and received from them such solemn professions of attachment and support that he returned to London in the fullest confidence of the good success of his expedition, but, to his utter astonishment, was met there by a royal mandate for the dismission of Townshend. His brother, justly enraged at such shameful duplicity, resigned his office of

first Commissioner of the Treasury, and himself, though solicited by a direct message from the King to retain it, that of secretary. He now engaged with them in a parliamentary opposition to the knaves who had deceived and succeeded them, with a violence for which perhaps so treacherous a provocation sufficiently apologised.

The new ministers, Stanhope and Sunderland, inefficient and unpopular, were soon compelled to solicit the aid of their predecessors, and it was granted, with a disinterested frankness, seasoned with contempt. Both died shortly after, and Sir Robert Walpole and Lord Townshend returned triumphantly to their posts of First Lord of the Treasury and Secretary of State. Horace, as he was usually called, who had in the mean time accepted the office of secretary to the Duke of Grafton, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was now despatched to the Hague, to solicit military succour, in the event of a new attempt at that time apprehended, in favour of the exiled royal family, and obtained, with some difficulty, a resolution of the States to that effect. At length to such a height had his diplomatic credit risen that he was sent, in January, the following year, 1723-4, with unlimited confidence, on a mission to the Court of Versailles, involving points of considerable delicacy and importance, and, on the fifth of the succeeding May, was invested with the character of Ambassador Extraordinary, in which he remained there till his powers were extinguished by the death of George the First in 1727, when he returned, merely to receive a renewal of them from the new King, and was soon after appointed one of the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Soissons, to meet the Imperial, French, Spanish, and Dutch ministers. Of his negotiations at the Court of Louis the Fifteenth during his long residence there, for his embassy terminated not till the year 1730, even the slightest detail would be more than could be here expected. They present to our view the singular and agreeable picture of two statesmen mutually attempting, and succeeding in the attempt, to perform their duties to their respective masters with strict precision and fidelity, without using any of those petty tricks and con-

trivances which discredit and falsify the name, usually attributed to them, of dexterity, and have, even for ages, cast an unfavourable shadow on the diplomatic character. The intercourse of Mr. Walpole with Cardinal Fleury seems to have passed on both sides in the honourable confidence of gentlemen, and with the freedom even of private friends; while the results, equally beneficial to the two states which they represented, were acknowledged by each with full approbation and gratitude.

Walpole indeed, favoured by the King, and yet more by Queen Caroline, who possessed great influence, not to mention the power of his brother, which was then at its zenith, might, had he been ambitious or avaricious, have commanded any degree of advantage; but he contented himself with no higher reward than the appointment of Cofferer of the Household, to which he was nominated immediately before his final return from Paris. This office was not however without its recommendations; it gave him a ready access, as of right, to the royal closet, where he was frequently consulted on affairs of the greatest importance and delicacy, and where he was admitted, in their moments of leisure, to a freedom of conversation in which an arch and lively simplicity of manners and expression contributed, not less than his solid good sense and judgment, to render him highly interesting both to the King and Queen. In the autumn of 1733 he was again despatched to the Hague on a secret mission, the object of which was to prevent the States from concluding a treaty of neutrality with France, in the expected event of a war between Louis and the Emperor. In this he was in a great measure successful; and, so well had he managed the affair, that he was not long after appointed Ambassador in ordinary to the republic, much, as we are told, against his inclination. During this mission, and probably most others in which he had been employed, he carried on a large epistolary correspondence with the Queen. His letters to her Majesty exhibit the most minute details, and amply prove the high opinion he entertained of her talents. They are couched too in terms of familiarity which show that he thought no less favourably of her temper.

This, it seems, was sometimes carried to such an extent as to cause offence. Writing, about this period to his brother, Sir Robert, he says—"I am extremely sorry to find that the dress of my letters to the Queen is not liked, although the matter is approved. I solemnly protest to you that I do not affect that free style, but I can no more write otherwise than I can tell how to dress my person better than I do."

He remained in his embassy at the Hague till 1740; occasionally absent in London, and once, for seven months, at Hanover, whither he attended the King, in June 1736, in the capacity of his Minister of State in the Electorate for English affairs, and returned with him for a few weeks in the succeeding January. The sequel of his services in Holland was rendered unpalatable and even painful to him by the perverseness of George the Second with respect to the disputed inheritance of the principality of East Friesland, and yet more by the inveterate personal enmity of that Prince to the Great Frederic the Second of Prussia, one or the other of which cramped and embarrassed all his latter transactions with the Dutch ministers. Walpole solicited, earnestly and repeatedly, his recal, and having obtained it with great difficulty, quitted the Hague with testimonials of respect and regard such as perhaps were never before bestowed on any foreign minister. On the second of May, 1741, he was appointed to the then very lucrative sinecure of a Teller of the Exchequer, resigning at the same time his little less profitable office of Cofferer of the Household.

The resignation, within a few months after, of his brother, Sir Robert, produced no alteration in either the public or private condition of Mr. Walpole. Always independent of party, he lost no old friends among those who with that great man quitted the administration, nor sought any new ones among those who succeeded. His opinion and advice in most affairs on the great theatre of continental politics and relations continued to be frequently and eagerly asked by each class of statesmen, and were never denied; for his good temper, and obliging disposition, were little less remarkable than the great extent of his experience and intelligence.

At the end of fifteen years from this period, which he had passed without taking any active concern in public affairs beyond a constant and most impartial performance of his duties in the lower House of Parliament, the marriage of his heir to a daughter of one of the most illustrious families in the kingdom, induced him, in his old age, and at a moment when his opinion disagreed with some favourite measures of the government, to solicit an advancement to the Peerage, and his request was immediately granted. "It was an honour," says he, in a letter to his friend, Archbishop Herring, of the nineteenth of June, 1756, "flowing entirely from his Majesty's own good will." On the first of that month he had been created Baron Walpole, of Wolterton, in Norfolk.

This Nobleman's biographer, the late Archdeacon Coxe, to whose work this meagre sketch has been mainly indebted, has drawn his character much at large, and with a masterly hand. "He was by nature choleric and impetuous. He corrected however this defect, so prejudicial to an ambassador, for no one ever behaved with more coolness and address in adapting himself to circumstances, and in consulting the characters and prejudices of those with whom he negotiated. Notwithstanding his natural vivacity, he was extremely placable, and easily appeased. He behaved to those who had reviled his brother's administration, and derided his own talents and person, with unvaried candour and affability, and no instance occurs of his personal enmity to the most violent of his former opponents. In conversation he was candid, unassuming, and communicated the inexhaustible fund of matter with which his mind was stored with an ease and vivacity which arrested attention. He maintained an unimpeached character for truth and integrity, as well in his public as in his private capacity; and this attachment to truth, which has been too often supposed an incumbrance to ministers in foreign transactions, established his credit, and contributed to his success in many difficult negociations. He paid great attention to the trade and manufactures of this country. The treatises which he published, and many which he left in manuscript, prove his minute and

extensive knowledge of those subjects. There is scarcely an article of trade, commerce, and manufacture, either native or foreign, on which documents are not found among his papers." Although his political publications must have been extremely numerous, the following are all that can be ascertained to be his:—Considerations on the present state of affairs in Europe, particularly with regard to the number of forces in the pay of Great Britain, 1730—The grand Question, whether war or no war with Spain, impartially considered—the Convention vindicated from the misrepresentations of the enemies of our peace, 1738—The interest of Great Britain steadily pursued, in answer to a Pamphlet intitled "The Case of the Hanover forces impartially and freely examined"—and an Answer to the latter part of Lord Bolingbroke's Letters on the Study of History, in a series of letters to a Noble Lord, 1763.

Lord Walpole died on the fifth of February, 1757, leaving issue by his Lady, Mary Magdalen, daughter and coheir of Peter Lombard of Burnham Thorpe, in Norfolk, four sons, and three daughters; Horatio, his successor, who was created Earl of Orford in 1806, and was grandfather to the present Earl; Thomas; Richard; and Robert; Mary, wife of Maurice Suckling; Henrietta, and Anne, died unmarried.

Engraved by W.H.Mote

WILLIAM PULTENEY, EARL OF BATH.

OB. 1764.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF JERVAS IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE LORD NORTHWICK

London, Published Dec^r 1.1836, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

WILLIAM PULTENEY,

EARL OF BATH.

THIS eminent
respectable antiqu
wealthy citizen
sat in Parliament
Pulteney, who
somewhat distinguished
father, also W
married the daughter
eldest son of their

He was born in the
Westminster school and
where the dawn
that Doctor Meli
make the commencement
Queen Anne, when
advantage from
for the
passed
tour
return, we
Mr. Guy, for the
sought in vain to discover
gentleman, who is said to have
pounds, and a landed estate,
is described, in a little
perficial detail of Mr. Pulteney's

WILLIAM PULTENEY,

EARL OF BATH.

This eminent person was the representative of a family of respectable antiquity in Leicestershire, which was founded by a wealthy citizen, in the fourteenth century, several of which had sat in Parliament, and, among them, his grandfather, Sir William Pulteney, who represented the city of Westminster, and was a somewhat distinguished speaker of the popular party. Of his father, also William, we have no intelligence, except that he married the daughter of a Mr. Floyd, and our subject was the eldest son of their union.

He was born in the year 1682, and received his education at Westminster School, and afterwards at Christ Church, in Oxford, where the dawn of his future eloquence was already so evident, that Doctor Aldrich, then Dean of the College, selected him to make the complimentary speech, customary on such occasions, to Queen Anne, when she visited the University. He acquired considerable fame there, not only for his talents and attainments, but for the assiduity with which he cultivated them, and, having passed four years at Christ Church, set out on the continental tour usually undertaken by young men of distinction, and on his return, was brought into parliament, through the interest of a Mr. Guy, for the borough of Hedon, in Yorkshire. We have sought in vain to discover the nature of his connexion with that gentleman, who is said to have afterwards left him forty thousand pounds, and a landed estate, and who, to increase the obscurity, is described, in a little pamphlet, published in 1731, with a superficial detail of Mr. Pulteney's public conduct, as " his friend,

Sir John Guise, who bequeathed him an estate worth thousands per annum."

He made his outset in public life, young as he was, with all the wariness and care of a prudent man beginning to exercise a trade or profession, and commenced by forming a set of precise rules for his conduct in Parliament, one of which was that a young member ought to speak seldom and shortly, and that the matters of his speech should arise out of the incidental suggestions of the debate; for it was his opinion, which circumstances have since much tended to justify, that those who began by making set and studied speeches scarcely ever became good orators. Thus prepared, he commenced his career, with a decent modesty in appearance, and an excessive ambition in reality, and presently acquired the attention and favour of the House. He enlisted warmly with the Whigs, whose party it seems his ancestors had long espoused, and, soon finding in their approbation his own strength and importance, not only became a frequent and bold speaker on all their chief questions, but was with little delay received into their most secret councils. The part which he took in the prosecution of Sacheverel completely fixed his reputation as a subtle partisan, as well as an eloquent orator, and so obnoxious had he by this time rendered himself to the Tories that, on their succeeding to the administration in 1710, they condescended to a personal resentment of his conduct by removing his uncle, John Pulteney, from the office of a Commissioner of the Board of Trade; a pitiful mark of vengeance, which did but increase the affection of his party, as well as his own growing popularity. He not only opposed that ministry, during the remarkable four last years of Queen Anne, with the utmost bitterness, but engaged with ardour in all the measures, private as well as public, to counteract the endeavours which they had secretly used at that interesting period to defeat the succession of the House of Hanover, and that, not only with his tongue and with his pen, but also with his purse, his affection to which was always known to be his greatest foible.

On the accession of King George the First, these services were presently acknowledged. He was sworn of the Privy Council; appointed Secretary at War; and, about the same time, complimented with the commission of Lord Lieutenant, and Custos Rotulorum, of the East Riding of Yorkshire, and of the town and county of Kingston upon Hull. The management, as it has been since called, of the House of Commons now fell, jointly, to himself and Mr. Walpole, afterwards, for so many years, chief minister, who, though no deficient speaker, chiefly employed himself in making political arrangements, while Pulteney charmed the House with the blaze of his eloquence, and the force of his arguments. This division of individual faculties, joined to a common interest, and a partial agreement of tempers, produced a harmony between them which was supposed, and perhaps not altogether unjustly, to partake of actual personal regard; an opinion which was in a great measure confirmed when, upon Walpole's first resignation of his post of first Lord of the Treasury, on the treacherous dismissal of his friend and relation, Lord Townshend, in 1716, Pulteney immediately relinquished that of Secretary at War.

It is scarcely possible however that a mutual cordiality can long subsist between two persons equally aiming at the same object, especially if the object be political power. Walpole, strengthened by a reconciliation with some lately refractory and important members of the whig party, and armed with increased popularity, as well as power, by having made himself the instrument of healing a quarrel of some standing between the King and the Prince of Wales, formed a new administration in the construction of which Pulteney was not included, nor even consulted. His disgust was already highly excited, when a peerage was offered to him, which he refused, but he dissembled his anger yet for nearly two years, and in the mean time accepted the place of Cofferer of the Household, for which he is said to have descended to solicit. While any hope seemed to remain of obtaining a conspicuous station in the government, he continued to give it his support in

Parliament, but, in proportion to the failure of his patience, his efforts gradually, but evidently cooled, and at length he occasionally appeared in direct opposition. Endeavours were now made to reclaim him, but they came too late. Walpole himself personally told him that, on the death or removal of either of the Secretaries of State, he should be appointed to succeed; but, after such tedious delay, he disdained the offer of a reversion, and, answering the proposal, which was made in conversation in the House of Commons, merely by a low bow, and a sarcastic smile, went over directly to the Tories, whose leader he presently became, as well as the peculiar and inflexible antagonist of Walpole.

He was of course angrily dismissed from his office, insignificant to such a man, of Cofferer, and it is strange that he should have waited for the indignity; but his opposition soon assumed so formidable a complexion, that new efforts were used to reconcile him. Upon Lord Townshend's resignation, soon after the death of George the First, the office of Secretary for Foreign Affairs was tendered to him, and Queen Caroline herself was made the instrument of again offering him a peerage, but he refused both, candidly assigning as his motive his rooted determination never again to act with Sir Robert Walpole. From this period their mutual aversion seems to have risen into actual hatred, and the vituperative language which passed between them in the House of Commons frequently far exceeded the bounds of good manners. Pulteney indeed, to gratify his resentment, broke all measures of prudence as well as decency, and sacrificed his character to his anger. He connected himself with Lord Bolingbroke, the known leader of the Jacobites, to whom he had always not only professed, but practised, a most bitter enmity; and became that nobleman's chief ally in the composition of the periodical paper called "the Craftsman," in which he loaded the Minister even with more invective than in his speeches. His essays in that paper provoked answers in pamphlets equally scurrilous, one of which, having been ascribed by him to Lord Hervey, a member of the ministry, whom he had therefore vilified and ridiculed in his reply, pro-

duced a duel between himself and that nobleman, in which the latter was wounded.

His intemperance in such publications was at length seriously noticed in a higher quarter. He had written a pamphlet, much celebrated at the time, with the title of "An answer to one part of a late infamous libel, entitled 'Remarks on the Craftsman's vindication of his two honourable patrons, in which the character and conduct of Mr. P. is fully vindicated.'" In this, blinded by his vengeance against Walpole, he ungenerously betrayed some particulars of a private conversation in which that minister had once uttered to him certain contemptuous expressions against the King, when Prince of Wales. The blow which he had so aimed at Walpole recoiled on himself. The King, with the magnanimity which has always distinguished his family, ordered that the printer should be prosecuted; struck Pulteney's name out of the Council Book with his own hand; and deprived him of his station of Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire. This, as may be supposed, by no means diminished the violence of his anger, which ceased but with the life of his great antagonist, while it certainly increased to the utmost the popularity of which he had possessed a more than common share during almost the whole of his political career. This advantage, however, if it may be so called, he had the misfortune for many years to outlive. Upon the change of administration, on the resignation of Sir Robert Walpole, in 1741, he was again sworn of the Privy Council, appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Salop, and on the thirteenth of July, in the following year, was created Baron of Hedon, in the county of York; Viscount Pulteney, of Wrington, in Somersetshire; and Earl of Bath. From the moment that he accepted those dignities he sunk in the estimation of all ranks, and it would be difficult to say whether he was more vehemently assailed by the wit of his politer adversaries, or the folly of the vulgar thousands by whom he had been for many years almost worshipped. With the exception of two or three feeble attempts again to interfere in affairs, the rest of his life was passed nearly in privacy.

Were it consistent with the usage of this work, we would gladly leave the character of this nobleman wholly untouched. It shall be given in the words of his two eminent contemporaries.

Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, tells us lightly that his writings will be better known by his name than his name will be by his writings, though his prose had much effect, and his verses, for he was a poet, were easy and graceful. "Both," adds the noble author, "were occasional, and not dedicated to the love of fame; good humour, and the spirit of society, dictated his poetry; ambition and acrimony his political writings: the latter made Pope say

'How many Martials were in Pulteney lost!'

That loss, however, was amply compensated to the world by the odes to which Lord Bath's political conduct gave birth. The pen of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams inflicted deeper wounds in three months on this Lord than a series of Craftsmen, aided by Lord Bolingbroke, for several years could imprint on Sir Robert Walpole. The latter lost his power, but lived to see justice done to his character: his rival acquired no power, but died—very rich."

When we recollect who was the father of the noble author of these touches, they should not be deemed uncharitable: there are, however, several detached anecdotes in Lord Orford's works of a more severe order, which it is not necessary to collect, as the substance of them is comprised in the following solemn and extended report of Lord Chesterfield.

"Mr. Pulteney was formed by nature for social and convivial pleasures; resentment made him engage in business. He had thought himself slighted by Sir Robert Walpole, to whom he publicly avowed not only revenge, but utter destruction. He had lively and shining parts; a surprising quickness of wit; and a happy turn to the most amusing and entertaining kinds of poetry, as epigrams, ballads, odes, &c., in all which he had an uncommon facility. His compositions in that way were sometimes satirical, often licentious, but always full of wit. He had a quick and clear conception of business; could equally detect and practise

sophistry; he could state and explain the most intricate matters, even in figures, with the utmost perspicuity. His parts were rather above business, and the warmth of his imagination, joined to the impetuosity and restlessness of his temper, made him incapable of conducting it long together with prudence and steadiness. He was a most complete orator and debater in the House of Commons—eloquent, entertaining, persuasive, strong, and pathetic, as occasion required; for he had argument, wit, and tears, at his command. His breast was the seat of all those passions which degrade our nature, and disturb our reason: there they raged in a perpetual conflict; but avarice, the meanest of them all, generally triumphed; ruled absolutely; and in many instances, which I forbear to mention, most scandalously."

The charge of avarice—scandalous avarice, to use Lord Chesterfield's epithet, is strongly supported by an anecdote too remarkable not to be here particularized, and too well authenticated to permit any doubt of its truth. The Duchess of Buckingham, a natural daughter of James the Second, was, as might be expected, at the head of the Jacobite ladies of England. She was enthusiastic in her attachment to the descendants of that Prince, and with so little caution that she frequently exposed herself to the danger of impeachment. On one of those occasions, she made over her estates, in a fright, to Mr. Pulteney, and went to Rome, till the cloud should have passed away. When she returned, she demanded the deed which she had in confidence signed, and left with him, when he declared that he could not find it, and put her off so long with that answer that she became alarmed and clamorous, and disclosed the matter to her intimates. At length one of them, who was a friend also of Pultency's, told him plainly, that "he could never show his face unless he satisfied the Duchess," upon which he executed a release to her of her estates, in due form of law.

"His sudden passion," continues Lord Chesterfield, "was outrageous, but supported by great personal courage. Nothing exceeded his ambition but his avarice: they often accompany, and

are frequently and reciprocally the causes and the effects of each other, but the latter is always a clog upon the former. He affected good-nature and compassion, and perhaps his heart might feel the misfortunes and distresses of his fellow-creatures, but his hand was seldom stretched out to relieve them. He was once in the greatest point of view that I ever saw any subject in.—When the opposition, of which he was the leader in the House of Commons, prevailed at last against Sir Robert Walpole, he became the arbiter between the Crown and the people; the former imploring his protection, the latter his support. In that critical moment his various jarring passions were in the highest ferment, and for a while suspended his ruling one. Sense of shame made him hesitate at turning courtier on a sudden, after having acted the patriot so long, and with so much applause; and his pride made him declare that he would accept of no place, vainly imagining that he could, by such simulated and temporary self-denial, preserve his popularity, and his power at court. He was mistaken in both—the King hated him almost as much for what he might have done as for what he had done; and a motley ministry was formed, who by no means desired his company; the nation looked upon him as a deserter, and he shrunk into insignificancy and an earldom. I may, perhaps, be suspected," adds Chesterfield, "to have given too high colouring to some features of this portrait; but I solemnly protest that I have drawn it conscientiously, and to the best of my knowledge, from very long acquaintance with, and observation of, the original; nay, I have rather softened than heightened the colouring."

The Earl of Bath died on the eighth of July, 1764, at the age of eighty-two, having had by his wife, Anna-Maria, one of the daughters and co-heirs of John Gumley, Commissary and Muster Master General to the army, three children, all of whom he had the misfortune to survive; William, who died in infancy; another William, Viscount Pulteney, who died at Madrid, unmarried, in 1763; and a daughter, Anna Maria, also unmarried.

Engraved by W.T.Fry.

PHILIP YORKE, EARL OF HARDWICKE.

OB. 1764.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF RAMSAY, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE THE EARL OF HARDWICKE.

London, Published Dec^r 1, 1836, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

PHILIP MORANT

FIRST [illegible]

One of the most [illegible]
that the history of [illegible]
gentleman of his own [illegible]
with good reputation [illegible]
Richard Gibbon, a [illegible]
which had been long [illegible]
neighbourhood of [illegible]
guished merit, or rather of [illegible]
obtains, will descend to [illegible]
various reports of the [illegible]
The truth is, that [illegible]
who came from [illegible]
from a branch of the [illegible]
possessed good [illegible]
and is still possessed [illegible]
who some years since [illegible]
the Peerage, alluding to [illegible]
justly stands in the place of an [illegible]
therefore been deemed sufficient to [illegible]
great man; but it seems something like [illegible]
their rights to withhold from them the honour of having [illegible]

PHILIP YORKE,

FIRST EARL OF HARDWICKE

ONE of the most distinguished ornaments to British jurisprudence that the history of this country can produce, was the only son of a gentleman of his own names, who practised the law for many years with good reputation at Dover, by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Richard Gibbon, a descendant from a highly respectable family which had been long seated on its own estates at Westcliffe, in the neighbourhood of that town. Those who, in their envy of distinguished merit, or rather of the brilliant rewards which it sometimes obtains, will descend to use even the basest weapons, have invented various reports of the meanness of this nobleman's extraction. The truth is, that his grandfather, Simon Yorke, also of Dover, who came from Calne, in Wiltshire, and is believed to have sprung from a branch of the Yorkes, of Richmond, in the county of York, possessed good landed property in Kent, which has descended to, and is still possessed by, his male heirs. The accomplished writer who some years since condescended to give us a new edition of the Peerage, alluding to these slanders, says—"His own merit justly stands in the place of an host of ancestors; it has hitherto therefore been deemed sufficient to begin the pedigree with this great man; but it seems something like defrauding the dead of their rights to withhold from them the honour of having produced

so illustrious a descendant. This false delicacy has had a different effect from that which was intended: it has served to sanction silly rumours which perhaps it was designed to suppress by a contemptuous silence: The family of this celebrated nobleman, if of no particular lustre either from titles or estates, was neither mean, insignificant in point of property, nor unrespectable in alliances. From them therefore if he borrowed no splendour, from them he derived no disgrace."

He was born at Dover, on the first of December, 1690, and educated under the care of a Mr. Samuel Morland, of Bethnal Green, who was the intimate friend of the celebrated Dr. Samuel Clarke, and had then the fame of being one of the best read and most ingenious scholars of his time. He left that instructor not only deeply skilled in the learned languages, but with a nicety of classical taste which he is said to have indulged in and exercised even amidst his most arduous and important employments. Having always been designed for the bar, he was removed at an early age to the tuition of an eminent conveyancer of the name of Salkeld, who, it may be worth observing, had also at the same time as pupils three youths, Jocelyn, Parker, and Strange, who afterwards became respectively, Chancellor of Ireland, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Master of the Rolls. During his stay here it happened that Sir Thomas Parker, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield, and Lord Chancellor, but at that time Chief Justice of the King's Bench, requested Mr. Salkeld to recommend to him a young gentleman qualified to instruct his son in the principles of the English laws, and Mr. Yorke, who was the party named by Salkeld, was immediately accepted. In his performance of this office, his early professional skill, as well as his extraordinary general talents, were presently observed and admired by the father, while, combined with the most amiable of tempers, they produced a strict intimacy and friendship with the son. Under these auspices he studied the law in the Middle Temple, and was called to the bar in the year 1714.

He rose immediately into the most extensive course of practice,

and, having in the mean time become known to the Duke of Newcastle, who, though some years younger than himself, already looked forward to that exalted station in the direction of public affairs which he afterwards for so many years held, was, by the interest of that nobleman, returned member for Lewes, in Sussex, as he was also for Seaford, in the same county, in the two succeeding Parliaments. Such was now his reputation, as well as his proficiency, that before he had fully attained the age of thirty, and when he was the youngest barrister on the western circuit, his friend, the Lord Chancellor Parker, recommended him for the office of Solicitor-general, to which he was appointed on the twenty-third of March, 1719—20, and soon after knighted. In this, as indeed in all others, he acquired high distinction, particularly in the trial of Mr. Layer, at the King's Bench bar, in November, 1722, for high treason. His reply on this occasion, which occupied more than two hours in the delivery, and in which he summed up late at night the evidence against the prisoner, and ably confuted all the topics of defence, challenged and obtained the highest and most justly merited admiration. About the same time he astonished the House of Commons by his strength of judgment, and acuteness of observation, in his opening of the bill against Mr. Kelly, secretary to Bishop Atterbury, and the principal agent in that prelate's political designs.

On the thirty-first of January, 1723—4, he was promoted to the station of Attorney-general, and had soon after a painful opportunity of proving his affection and gratitude to the Lord Macclesfield. On that nobleman's impeachment, not less regardless of ministerial censure, or of the probable charge of imprudence on the part of his own friends, than of popular clamour, he defended in the House of Commons the fallen Chancellor, particularly against the rough attacks of his bitter enemy, Serjeant Pengelly, on his Lordship's manner of answering the articles of impeachment, and on his plea of the act of grace, with a zeal which proved that the powers of his mind were fully equalled by the warmth of his heart. In the execution of the important office of

Attorney-general, says an anonymous contemporary writer in the Annual Register for 1764, who evidently knew him well, "he was remarkable for his candour and lenity. As an advocate for the Crown he spoke with the veracity of a witness and a judge; and, though his zeal for justice and the due course of law was strong, yet his tenderness to the subject in the Court of Exchequer was so distinguished, that it happened once, when he touched upon his own conduct in that point, in some of the parliamentary debates upon the excise, in 1733, the whole House of Commons assented to it with an universal applause. He was so unmoved by fear or favour in what he thought right and legal, that he often debated and voted against the Court." In making this latter assertion the author more particularly alludes to his conduct in the House of Commons as to the affairs of the South Sea Company; and, afterwards, on a bill which he introduced to regulate the management of the forfeited estates of the Earl of Derwentwater, in a mode contrary to the declared opinions of most of the ministers of the day.

He remained in the post of Attorney-general for ten years, when, on the resignation, in October, 1733, of the Lord Chancellor King, public opinion, and indeed the ordinary usage of legal advancement, pointed to him as the successor. It is however a curious fact, that, the Crown and Government seeming indifferent which of two most able and faithful servants to place in that exalted office, it was in a manner left to be settled in friendly negotiation between themselves, when himself, and Sir Charles Talbot, the Solicitor-general, agreed that it would be more serviceable, under some peculiar circumstances of the period, to the public, and more honourable mutually to their own characters, that the latter should succeed to it; and Sir Philip Yorke accordingly waved his claim, for the time, to the seal, and accepted the Chief Justiceship of the King's Bench, which happened also then to be vacant. It is remarkable too on this occasion that it was proposed to augment the salary of the chief of that court from two to four thousand pounds, and that he refused to accept the increase. He

was appointed on the thirty-first of October, 1733, and on the twenty-third of the succeeding month was advanced to the Peerage, by the title of Baron Hardwicke, of Hardwicke, in the county of Gloucester. In his new station he acquired a new reputation, for the candour and sincerity of the Bench display without reserve those characters of nature which the artifices of the bar invariably suppress, or leave doubtful, and love and esteem for the man became now added to respect for the wisdom and learning of the judge. He is said indeed to have been a pattern of humanity, patience, and courteousness.

He presided in the Court of King's Bench little more than two years, for his friend Lord Chancellor Talbot dying on the seventeenth of February, 1736—7, the King, four days after, delivered to him the Great Seal. From this period, through the long series of years for which Providence permitted him to remain a blessing to his country, the events of his life were chiefly confined to the performance of the duties of his court, and the transactions of the cabinet. His name, as indeed could not but be expected, is to be found in all the commissions of the reign of George the Second appointing Lords Justices for the administration of the executive government during the occasional absences of that Prince in Germany. So too, almost as of course, we find him sitting as Lord High Steward of England in 1746, on the trials of the Earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, and Lord Balmerino; and again, in the following year, on that of the Lord Lovat. On the thirty-first of July, 1749, he was elected High Steward of the University of Cambridge, and, on the second of April, 1754, received the final reward of his long and eminent services, in an unsolicited grant of the further dignities of Viscount Royston, and Earl of Hardwicke. In November, 1756, from no party disagreement, from no personal pique, with no secret views, but from the mere desire of that ease to which he was now so justly entitled, he resigned his high office, with the same dignified modesty which had always distinguished him in the exercise of its faculties.

The Annual Register, which has been lately quoted to illustrate

some part of this sketch, proceeds to give a comprehensive view of the whole of this great man's character, probably from the pen of Edmund Burke himself, who is well known to have been then, as well as for some years before and after, the editor of that very respectable publication.—It is under this impression that I give the passages as I find them, without presuming to vary a single expression—

" His resignation of the Great Seal gave an universal concern to the nation, however divided at that time in other respects: but he still continued to serve the public in a more private station, though he had it in his choice, both in the last and present reign, whether he would again fill other public offices of high dignity. His attendance at council whenever his presence was necessary; at more private meetings whenever his opinion was desired; in the House of Lords upon every occasion where the course of public business required it; were the same as when he filled one of the highest offices in the kingdom. He had a pleasure in giving the full exertion of his abilities to the state, without expecting or receiving any emoluments, of any kind whatever, and he seemed only to have quitted the laborious details of the Chancery that he might be at more leisure to attend to such parts of the public service as were of more general use to the community. His reverence for the laws and constitution of his country was equal to his extensive learning in them. This rendered him as tender of the just prerogatives invested in the Crown for the benefit of the whole, as watchful to prevent the least encroachment upon the liberty of the subject. In the character of a statesman, his knowledge of mankind, his acquaintance with history and treaties, both ancient and modern, added to his long experience, penetration, and superior understanding, enabled him to decide with force and exactness upon all the questions in which he was consulted by his colleagues in other branches of the administration; and he had a peculiar talent of analysing such questions by stating the arguments on both sides in a comprehensive and pointed view."

" In judicature, his firmness and dignity were evidently derived

from his consummate knowledge and talents; and the mildness and humanity with which he tempered it" (them) " from the best heart. He was wonderfully happy in his manner of debating causes upon the bench, which he did copiously and elaborately. His apprehension was so quick and steady that it was unnecessary to repeat facts or reasonings which had once been stated to him, a second time. His attention to the arguments from the bar was so close, and so undisturbed by impatience, or any passion or affection of his mind, that he condescended to learn from the meanest, whilst he every day instructed and surprised the ablest. He gave the utmost scope to the objections which pressed strongest against his opinion, and often improved them: but his judgment was so correct and excellent that even his unpremeditated opinions were generally acknowledged to be profound, and to turn upon the best points which the cause afforded; and would bear examination when reduced into written reports. His extraordinary dispatch of the business of the Court of Chancery, increased as it was in his time beyond what had been known in any former, was an advantage to the suitor inferior only to that arising from the acknowledged equity, perspicuity, and precision of his decrees. The integrity and abilities with which he presided there, during the space of almost twenty years, appears from this remarkable circumstance—that only three of his decrees were appealed from, and even those were afterwards affirmed by the House of Lords.

" His talents as a speaker in the senate, as well as on the bench, have left too strong an impression to need being dilated on to those who had often heard him. To their memories it will be sufficient to recall that whenever Lord Hardwicke delivered his sentiments in public, he spoke with a natural and manly eloquence, unsullied by false ornaments, declamatory flourishes, or personal invectives. He had a method and arrangement in his topics which gradually interested, enlightened, and convinced the hearer. When he quoted precedents of any kind, either in law, history, or the forms of Parliament, he applied them with the greatest skill, and at the same time with the greatest fairness; and whenever

he argued, his reasons were supported and strengthened by the most apposite cases and examples which the subject would allow. In questions of state and policy he drew his principles from the ablest authorities in legislation and the art of government; and in questions of jurisprudence, from the purest sources of the laws and constitution of his own country, and, when the occasion called for it, of others. His manner was graceful and affecting; modest, yet commanding; his voice peculiarly clear and harmonious, and even loud and strong, for the greater part of his time. With those talents of public speaking, the integrity of his character gave a lustre to his eloquence, which those who opposed him felt in the debate, and which operated most powerfully on the minds of those who heard him with a view to information and conviction; and it were to be wished, for the sake of posterity, that his speeches on a variety of important points of law, equity, and policy, were preserved in a more lasting register than that of the memories of his contemporaries. Convinced of the great principles of religion, and steady in the practice of the duties of it, he maintained a reputation of virtue which added dignity to the stations which he filled, and authority to the laws which he administered."

This admirable nobleman died on the sixth of March, 1764. By his lady, who departed about two years before him, Margaret, daughter of Charles Cocks, of the city of Worcester, by Mary, his wife, a sister of the Lord Chancellor Somers, he had five sons; Philip, his successor; Charles, father to the present noble Earl; Joseph, who was created Lord Dover; John; and James, who died Bishop of Ely: Lord Hardwicke had also two daughters; Elizabeth, married to George, first Lord Anson; and Margaret, to Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart.

Engraved by W. Hall.

THOMAS PELHAM, DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

OB. 1768.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF HOARE, IN THE COLLECTION OF

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

London, Published Dec^r 1.1856, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

THOMAS PELHAM HOLLES,

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

He was the eldest son of [illegible] land, in Surrey, Baronet [illegible] and powerful families of county [illegible] Grace, fourth and youngest daughter [illegible] of Clare, and sister and coheir to John, [illegible] 1694 created Duke of Newcastle, and was born [illegible]

THOMAS PELHAM HOLLES,

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

WITHOUT wisdom to guide, or temper to submit to advice; with an insatiable inclination to govern, but without the dignity of mind or manners to induce respect; at once rash and timid; ever jealous and suspicious, yet idly and unnecessarily communicative; fond to excess of the transaction of affairs, but incapable of method and arrangement; the Duke of Newcastle for nearly half a century filled the highest offices in the state, and actually shared in ruling the destinies of Europe. This strange anomaly arose from various causes, of which these were the principal—from the importance to the whig party of having for their leader a man of the highest rank, and most powerful personal influence, and of maintaining him in the administration of the government; from the aid of a most affectionate and rational brother, his colleague, who, unknown to him, tempered his extravagances, and was ever on the watch to lend him sagacity and prudence; and, lastly, from his own native honour and honesty, whose pure brightness frequently dazzled the keenest-sighted, and daunted the boldest of his adversaries.

He was the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Pelham, of Halland, in Sussex, Baronet, representative of one of the most ancient and powerful families of gentry in that county, by his second lady, Grace, fourth and youngest daughter of Gilbert Holles, third Earl of Clare, and sister and coheir to John, his eldest son, who was in 1694 created Duke of Newcastle, and was born on the first of

August, 1693. His father, who had long sat in Parliament, acted heartily with those who brought about the revolution of 1688; became an active member of the administration which succeeded that event; and in the following reign was created Baron Pelham, of Laughton, in Sussex. His two sons therefore had in some measure a political education, while they imbibed with ardour the public principles of their parent. For the rest, Thomas, of whom we write, was sent early to Westminster school, and from thence to Clare Hall, in the University of Cambridge, where he was admitted on the ninth of May, 1709, and which he left with the reputation of a good classical scholar.

His maternal uncle, the Duke of Newcastle, dying in 1711, he became heir, under the will of that nobleman, to the most part of his princely property, and assumed the surname of Holles, and in the succeeding year, on the death of his father, inherited also his title and estates. Upon the accession of George the First, which presently followed, he is said to have endeared himself to the King, and the royal family, by every testimony that youthful heat and sincerity could suggest to his mind of his boundless zeal for the House of Hanover; and his endeavours to suppress and discourage the libels and tumults by which it was immediately assailed were carried to a generous extravagance, and even exposed him occasionally to personal danger. Be this as it might, he was received immediately into the highest favour, for, on the twenty-sixth of October, 1714, little more than one month after the King's arrival in England, he was created Earl of Clare, one of the dignities of his mother's family, and, on the second of August, in the next year, Marquis of Clare, and Duke of Newcastle on Tyne, with remainder to his only brother, Henry Pelham. Nothing now seemed to be wanting to complete his exaltation and good fortune but a suitable marriage, and a splendid public appointment, and both were at hand, for, on the second of April, 1717, he wedded the Lady Harriet, daughter of Francis, Earl of Godolphin, and granddaughter of the great John, Duke of Marlborough; and in the course of the same month, was appointed Lord Chamberlain of

the King's Household, and sworn of the Privy Council. The Order of the Garter also was conferred on him, on the thirty-first of March in the succeeding year.

Here seemed enough to satisfy, could such a medium exist, any reasonable ambition, but it proved insufficient to his desires. Satiated with pre-eminence in the Court, he beheld with envy the burthensome distinctions of a statesman, and a concurrence of circumstances soon enabled him to assume them. Some splendid temporary commissions with which he was now invested increased and confirmed this appetite: in the summer of 1718 he was one of the Peers appointed to sign the treaty called the quadruple alliance, and in each of the two following years was appointed one of the Lords Justices for the administration of the government in the King's absence in Germany, as he was again in 1723, and frequently afterwards. At length his brother-in-law, Charles, Viscount Townshend, a statesman of several years' practice, and Sir Robert Walpole, who was also related to that nobleman, having succeeded in driving Lord Carteret from the office of a principal Secretary of State, and placed themselves in fact at the head of the ministry, named the Duke to succeed him in 1724, when he resigned his post of Lord Chamberlain. His brother Henry had been two years earlier a subordinate, but rising member of administration, and by his advice and assistance the new secretary was already mainly directed. Several years however passed, in a long period of profound peace, without the occurrence of a single circumstance in his life beyond the mere routine of official business, and the petty contests and intrigues of party, which few who have written of that time have either deigned or dared to record. Scarcely raised in character above these was a violent disagreement in 1738 between the Duke and Walpole, with whom he had before had frequent bickerings, on the question whether the office of Lord Privy Seal should be given to Lord Hervey, which, if decided in that nobleman's favour, the former threatened to resent by immediate resignation. Hervey was, after some time, appointed, and Henry, with the aid of the Chancellor Hardwicke,

soothed his brother into condescension to keep the seals; but what is this to us or to posterity?—such however is the miserable sterility of the history of public men in that time, that it lifts even such a circumstance into comparative consequence.

A more serious cause of chagrin soon after occurred. George the Second, alarmed for the safety of his favourite Hanover, which the French and Bavarians were on the point of invading, abandoned suddenly the interests of the House of Austria, so warmly espoused by him, and agreed to disarm the troops which he had raised for its support, and to sign a treaty of neutrality. This negociation had been conducted at Hanover by the King himself, without consulting his ministers at home, a cause of offence which the Duke justly felt, in common with them; but what must have been the degree of his peculiar mortification when he discovered that the King's private letter to Sir Robert Walpole, announcing the arrangement, had been delivered to, and read in his presence by, that minister, without making the slightest communication to him of the contents? Newcastle became outrageous at this palpable slight, and vented his anger in intemperate expressions, not only against Walpole, but against the King himself, whom he proposed in a manner to inculpate by an appeal from the English Cabinet to every Court of Europe. He again resolved to resign, and was again, but with much more difficulty, pacified by the arguments of the same mediators.

His resentments, as is usual with men of his temperament, were not less transient than violent. He was soon reconciled to Walpole, and, after that minister's retirement, he had the credit of forming the administration which succeeded. In this work however, which was full of difficulties, he was guided almost wholly by the secret advice of Walpole himself, whose policy indeed in a great measure governed the country for the remainder of his life. The Duke still held his post of Secretary of State for the southern department, and with his brother, who had hitherto filled no higher station than that of Paymaster-general of the army, but who had now prudently refused the office of Chancellor

of the Exchequer, resolved to wait patiently for the breaking up of a ministry that even already, in the hour of its inauguration, betrayed symptoms of decay which promised them proportionate advantages. They contented themselves in the interval by generously defending their friend, for such he really was, the fallen Premier, from the repeated Parliamentary attacks which threatened him with impeachment, and by a steady adoption of his favourite principles of policy. The ministry was deranged, but not wholly dissolved, by an unexpected event, the death, in the summer of 1743, of Lord Wilmington, who, after a short struggle with that remarkable partisan, Pulteney, now Earl of Bath, for the royal preference, was succeeded in the office of first Lord of the Treasury by Henry Pelham, who was soon after appointed also Chancellor of the Exchequer. The influence of the brothers was now consummated, with the exception only of a rivalry between the Duke and his brother Secretary of State, Lord Carteret, whose political notions differed widely from theirs, and whose personal favour with the King rendered him yet more distasteful to them.

That Prince seems indeed to have been never very cordial with them, particularly with the Duke, during the whole of the long period of his service, and such of that nobleman's letters as have appeared abound with complaints of the harshness with which he was frequently treated by his master; nor was this the mere result of infirmity of temper, but in some measure of a degree of settled and habitual disgust, arising from a frequent clashing of opinions. The Duke, though by no means deficient in flattery, seems always to have spoken frankly and boldly to the King on public affairs, and occasionally contradicted even his strongest inclinations, of which his constant opposition to the employment of Hanoverian troops and his lukewarmth as to the vigorous prosecution of the war, afford striking proofs. At length the King determined, even amidst the confusion caused by the rebellion of 1745, to employ Lord Bath, and Carteret, who had now succeeded to the title of Earl Granville, to form a new administration; of which the Pelhams had no sooner obtained certain

intelligence than they anticipated his plan by a resignation, in which they were followed by the largest train of official friends that perhaps had ever before graced a ministerial retirement. Never was public regret more strongly excited than on this occasion. All ranks united in testifying their affection and respect to the brothers; and even the Duke of Cumberland, whose duty to his father was remarkable, and who had just now added to his weight in public affairs the highest degree of popularity, expressed those sentiments most unreservedly in a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, of the sixteenth of February, 1746. The King however persisted, but few of the new servants had even accepted their appointments, when Lord Bath waited on him to express his doubts of a sufficient majority in the House of Commons, and his consequent wish to revoke his late engagements. His Majesty immediately sent to the Duke and Mr. Pelham, desiring them to re-assume their offices; they requested and obtained from him a public proof of his inclination to replace them; removed all those who had been so lately admitted; and triumphantly returned, with their friends, to their former stations.

In the summer of 1748 the Duke, for the first time, attended his Majesty to Hanover. Two motives induced him to forego on this occasion his strange aversion even to the shortest sea voyage—the view of lessening, by a daily familiar intercourse, the King's personal coldness towards him, and a jealous apprehension that, were the other Secretary of State, the Duke of Bedford, to have undertaken that duty, the same advantage might have been cultivated by that nobleman to his prejudice. His expedition produced nothing personally remarkable, unless a squabble between his Grace and Mr. Legge, the British envoy at Berlin, occasioned by the King's desire to secure the bishopric of Osnaburg to the Duke of Cumberland, may be so considered. Legge was recalled and reinstated through the mediation of Mr. Pelham, who, as usual on such occasions, also pacified his brother. On the variety of political affairs which he transacted during his stay on the Continent nothing need here be said, but that his conduct

in them seems to have been highly satisfactory to his master. Immediately on his return, in the beginning of the winter, he was elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, in preference to the Prince of Wales, by whom he was hated, and who is said to have suffered, as it was intended he should, a severe mortification by that event.

The return of the Duke to England was the signal for a renewal of domestic discord. The Duke of Bedford, the other Secretary of State, with whose indolence, and inattention to public business he was already disgusted, had now excited his jealousy by an acquisition of increased favour and intimacy with the Duke of Cumberland, and his sister the Princess Amelia. Lord Sandwich, to whom he had been a zealous patron, but from whom he had received some umbrage during that nobleman's late negociation of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, had obtained there the good graces of the royal Duke, and on his return had attached himself to the Duke of Bedford. Newcastle thought he saw in these circumstances clear traces of a combination against him, when, to confirm his suspicions, the Duke of Cumberland suddenly condescended to tender his good offices towards effecting a reconciliation between the jealous minister and Sandwich; but such however was the degree of ire which transported the former that he insulted his Royal Highness by returning no kind of answer to his proposal; while, to avenge himself of the Princess, he transferred those respectful attentions which she was used to receive from him to the King's mistress, the Countess of Yarmouth, who soon after treated him with indifference and neglect. After incessant indirect endeavours to compass the removal of the Duke of Bedford, and in the midst of these feuds, he was again called on to attend his master to the Continent, whither he went, leaving his brother to do his best towards composing them. This Pelham vainly attempted, and at last, sorely against his will, was prevailed on, soon after the King's return, explicitly to solicit him to deprive that nobleman of the seals, and was flatly refused. Newcastle now became outrageous; charged his brother with having betrayed

him to his enemies; and at last forced him into a quarrel so serious as to prevent for some time their speaking to each other, except on public business. Their reconciliation was by a treaty, in due diplomatic form, of three articles, dictated by the Duke, who probably abided by them as long as he remained in good humour.

The sudden death of the Prince of Wales, father of George the Third, in 1751, and the attention required by affairs consequent on that event, not only suspended for a while these discreditable broils, but produced in effect those events which the Duke had so earnestly sought. In the conclusion of that year, Lord Sandwich was dismissed from his post of first Lord of the Admiralty, and the Duke of Bedford immediately resigned, in an audience distinguished by the bitter invectives against his adversary which he allowed himself to utter to the King. In the following year the Duke of Newcastle was again plunged, with his Majesty, for several weeks, into the misery of German politics; and, on his return, proposed, and earnestly forwarded, the bill for the naturalization of the Jews, the repeal of which he was obliged, in compliance with popular prejudice, to consent to in the succeeding session. The greatest misfortune of his life was now at hand—the death, on the sixth of March, 1754, of his brother Mr. Pelham; a minister inferior to many in brilliancy of design, and in boldness of execution; in plain solid sense, and in strict honesty, to none. Five days after, the King nominated the Duke of Newcastle his successor, who was hardy enough to accept the charge. The haughtiness of Mr. Pitt prevented the new minister from placing him in the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the pliancy of Mr. Fox emboldened the Duke to offer it to him, with so many restrictions that he was ashamed to accept it. These distinguished rivals to each other therefore joined in opposition against him, and Mr. Henry Bilson Legge was appointed to the office.

The loss of Mr. Pelham was now severely felt, and the story of the two years in which the Duke occupied, without filling, his place, presents a mere blank to all but those who can behold with

complacency innumerable intrigues and meannesses, too minute to be discerned by the eye of history, as well as too trifling and scandalous to be recorded by its pen—the discredited government of a great nation, and the debasement to which the highest cultivated human nature will submit in the indulgence of unrestrained selfishness. Newcastle resigned on the eleventh of November, 1756, amidst quarrels which he had not temper to reconcile, and weakness which he wanted vigour to corroborate; and affected to retire cheerfully to a dignified privacy, but to this neither his nature nor his habits could submit. From the hour of his retreat he laboured incessantly in the prosecution of multifarious schemes and negociations for his return; and at length, on the second of July, in the following year, he was replaced at the head of the Treasury, from the same motives and considerations which so many years before had first made him a minister of State. There he remained yet five years longer, lending a great name, and impatiently submitting to the master mind, and general ministerial domination, of Mr. Pitt. To the rule of Lord Bute however he could not so implicitly condescend, and, after an obstinate dispute with that nobleman, soon after his elevation, on his refusing his consent to continue the payment of the King of Prussia's subsidy, waited immediately on the King, and finally resigned, on the second of May, 1762.

The character of this remarkable nobleman has been thus drawn, perhaps with almost as much justice as a bitter hatred could permit, by the pen of Lord Orford.—"The Duke of Newcastle had no pride, yet infinite self-love. Jealousy was the great source of all his faults. He always caressed his enemies, to list them against his friends. There was no service he would not do for either, till either was above being served by him; then he would suspect they did not love him enough, for the moment they had every reason to love him, he took every method to obtain their hate by exerting all his power for their ruin. There was no expense to which he was not addicted but generosity. His houses, gardens, table, and equipage, swallowed immense treasures. The

sums he owed were only exceeded by those he wasted. He loved business immoderately, yet was only always doing it—never did it. His speeches in Council and Parliament were flowing, and copious of words, but empty and unmeaning; his professions extravagant, for he would profess intentions of doing more service to many men than he even did hurt to others. Always inquisitive to know what was said of him, he wasted in curiosity the time in which he might have earned praise. He aimed at everything: endeavoured nothing. Fear, a predominant fear, was predominant in him: he would venture the overthrow of the Government, and hazard his life and fortunes, rather than open a letter that might discover a plot. He was a Secretary of State without intelligence, a Duke without money, a man of infinite intrigue without secrecy or policy, and a minister despised and hated by his master, by all parties and ministers, without being turned out by any."

The Duke of Newcastle died on the seventeenth of November, 1768, leaving no issue by his lady, who has been already mentioned. On his quitting therefore the administration in 1756, he received, on the thirteenth of November in that year, a second patent creating him Duke of Newcastle-under-Line, with remainder to Henry Clinton, Earl of Lincoln, husband to Catherine, daughter and coheir to the Duke's late brother, the Right Honourable Henry Pelham; and, on the fourth of May, 1762, a grant also of the title of Baron Pelham, of Stanmer, in Sussex, with remainder to Thomas Pelham, of the same place, Esq.; the former of which dignities is now enjoyed by the present Duke of Newcastle; the latter by the Earl of Chichester.

Engraved by H. Robinson.

JOHN MANNERS, MARQUIS OF GRANBY.

OB. 1770.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE THE EARL OF EGREMONT.

London, Published Dec^r 1, 1836, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

JOHN MANNERS,

MARQUIS OF GRANBY.

THIS nobleman [illegible] which were [illegible] the kindness [illegible] John Manners, [illegible] and heir of [illegible] was born [illegible] to speak of [illegible] prospects in the [illegible] same in all. [illegible] became a member [illegible] had reached the [illegible] elected for [illegible] the two follow[illegible] of Cambridge. [illegible] In the [illegible] head of [illegible] tinction, [illegible] stances [illegible] the military [illegible] remained active [illegible] passed through the [illegible] on the fourth of March, [illegible] in May, 1758, was appointed [illegible] horse guards; and, on the [illegible] to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

JOHN MANNERS,

MARQUIS OF GRANBY.

This nobleman, so justly famed for his bravery and generosity, which were equalled only by the sweetness of his temper and the kindness of his heart, was the eldest son and heir apparent of John Manners, third Duke of Rutland, by Bridget, only daughter and heir of Robert Sutton, second and last Lord Lexington, and was born on the second of January, 1721, N. S. It would be idle to speak of the mode of education of persons of his birth and prospects in the last century, for it was, as it remains, one and the same in all. Almost as needless therefore is it to observe that he became a member of the lower House of Parliament as soon as he had reached the age prescribed, or perhaps earlier. He was first elected for the town of Grantham, which he represented also in the two following Parliaments; and afterwards sate for the county of Cambridge, without intermission, for the remainder of his life. In the rebellion of 1745, he raised a regiment of infantry, at the head of which he served in Scotland, and was engaged, with distinction, at the decisive battle of Culloden; and to these circumstances may be ascribed almost with certainty his inclination to the military profession, into which he immediately entered, and remained actively employed till the year of his death. Having passed through the usual gradations of junior rank, he received, on the fourth of March, 1755, the commission of Major General; in May, 1758, was appointed Colonel of the royal regiment of horse guards; and, on the fifth of February, 1759, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

Passing over a variety of previous minor services, we will observe that at the battle of Minden, on the first of August, in the year last named, an action rendered even more remarkable by a collateral circumstance than by the splendid success which attended it, he was second in command of the British and Hanoverian Horse, under Lord George Sackville. The singular conduct of that nobleman, in a disobedience of orders which afterwards became the subject of inquiry by a court martial, produced, in an expression of the resentment of the commander of the army, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, the highest compliment to Lord Granby, in the subsequent general orders—"His Serene Highness," say they, "further orders it to be declared to Lieutenant-General the Marquis of Granby, that he is persuaded that, if he had had the good fortune to have him at the head of the cavalry of the right wing, his presence would have contributed to make the decision of that day more complete, and more brilliant." Certainly his conduct on the occasion in question exhibited a striking contrast to that of his superior, for, while he hesitated whether to comply with the Prince's command to march to the charge, his own orders to Lord Granby, who was flying to the field, to halt, were twice disobeyed. On the twenty-fifth of the same month the Marquis was appointed to succeed Lord George as "Commander-in-Chief of all his Majesty's forces then serving in Germany under Prince Ferdinand," and to the station, which he had also held, of Lieutenant General of the Ordnance. These eminent persons had never been on terms of cordiality, but Lord Granby, who returned for a while to give his evidence on the trial of his enemy, "showed," says Lord Orford, in his memoirs of the reign of George the Second, "an honorable and compassionate tenderness; so far from exaggerating the minutest circumstance, he palliated or suppressed whatever might load the prisoner, and seemed to study nothing but how to avoid appearing a party against him; so inseparable in his bosom were valour and good-nature."

This proceeding concluded, the Marquis returned to the army

in time for the successful battle of Warburg, which was fought on the thirtieth of July, 1760, and in which he gained signal honour; and in that of Phillinghausen, the favourable event of the day may be wholly ascribed to himself, and the troops then under his immediate command, as well as in the affair of Wilhelmstahl, which occurred soon after. "Towards the end of the war," says an anonymous writer who had served under him, "when the army was so situated that, if a rising ground on the left had been taken possession of by the French, it might have been attended by the worst consequences; and when the Generals destined to lead a corps to occupy it declared the service impracticable; Lord Granby arose from a sick bed, in the middle of the night; assumed the command of the corps; marched, with a fever upon him, in an inclement season; took possession of the post, and secured the army." "My Lord Granby's generosity," adds the same writer, with a blunt and honest enthusiasm, "knows no bounds. Often have I seen his generous hand stretched out to supply the wants of the needy soldier: nor did the meanest follower of the camp go hungry from his door. His house was open equally to British and foreigners; his table was hospitality itself; and his generous open countenance gave a hearty welcome to all his guests. Hence harmony reigned through the whole army; disputes had no existence; and officers of different nations emulated the social virtues of the British chief. By such means he gained the hearts of all the army: they followed him with confidence, and fought under him from attachment." These sentiments of his character have been a hundred times echoed, and were never contradicted. He certainly was one of the most amiable men in existence.

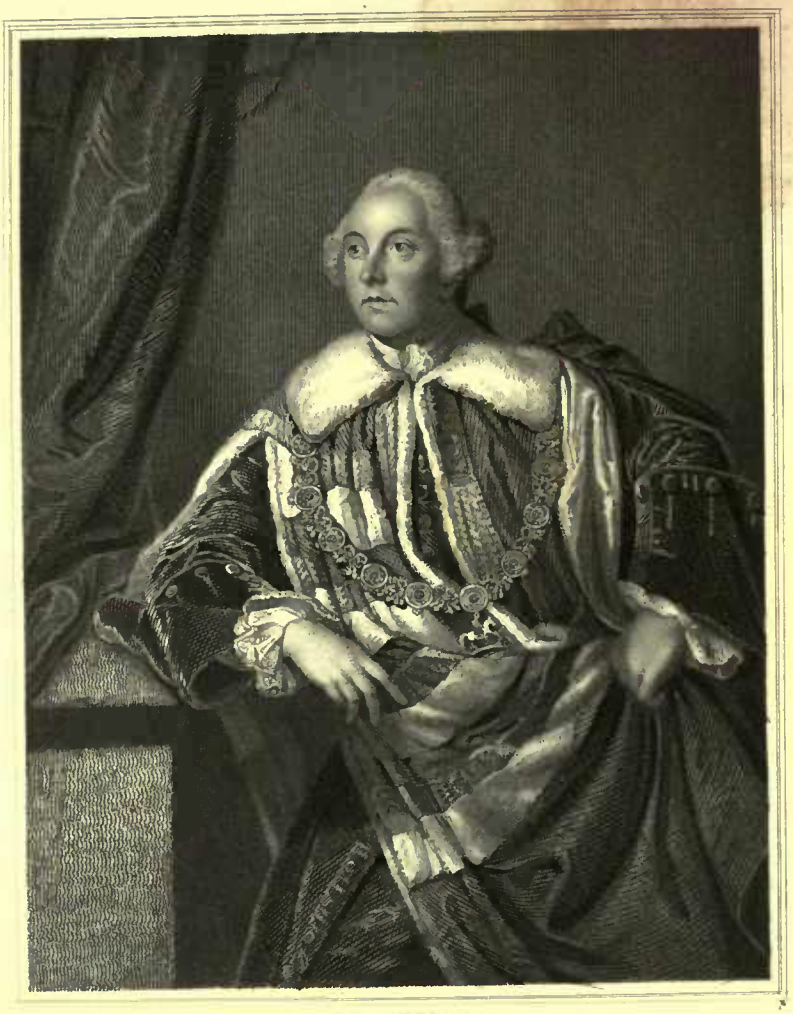
Lord Granby, though he lived in a time of great party violence, took little concern in political affairs. To such a nature as his the selfishness, the injustice, the meanness, the acrimony, which unhappily seem inseparable from them, must have been utterly abhorrent; and the calls of his public service had fortunately tended in a great measure to detach him from them. He had

not a seat in the Privy Council till the second of May, 1760, when the King declared him a member, during his absence with the army. On his return, after the peace, he became, and remained, as might have been reasonably expected, a moderate supporter in Parliament of the measures of government. On the fourteenth of May, 1763, on his resignation of his commission of Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance, he accepted the office of Master-General of that department, and on the twenty-first of February, in the following year, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the County of Derby. These were rather to be esteemed compliments than favours, the one due to his military services, the other to just family pretensions. But, on the thirteenth of August, 1766, he was placed in the exalted post of Commander-in-Chief of the army, and the voice of faction was presently raised against him. That most splendid and superb of all libellers, the person, who, under the signature of Junius, astonished the country by the malignity and the injustice of his censures, not less than by the force and exquisite beauty of the terms in which they were conveyed, devoted a paragraph of the very first effusion which fell from his pen to the abuse of the Commander-in-Chief. With the utmost disposition to injure him, merely because he had become a member of the administration, Junius could no further accuse him than of a partiality to relations and friends in the distribution of promotions, and the falsehood of the charge as to the few instances which Junius had ventured to particularize was fully proved by one of Lord Granby's private friends, who, with a generous imprudence, signed with his name a reply to the anonymous slander.

On this subject it is needless to say more. The Marquis held the high office but for between three and four years. On the great question whether the House of Commons could incapacitate Mr. Wilkes from sitting in it, he had voted for the affirmative. On the meeting of Parliament, in January, 1770, it was again introduced, and canvassed with great heat and irritation. He now made a public recantation of the opinion which he had formerly tacitly expressed on the Middlesex election; and concluded a

short speech, by declaring that " it was for want of consideration of the nice distinction between expulsion and incapacitation that he had given his vote for the sitting of a member who was not returned in the last session of Parliament, and that he should always lament that vote as the greatest misfortune of his life. That he now saw he was in an error, and was not ashamed to make that public declaration of it." A few days after, he resigned his appointments, as did the rest of the members of the government; and, on the twentieth of the following October, died, most unexpectedly, of a sudden attack of the gout in his stomach, at Scarborough.

The Marquis of Granby married Frances, eldest daughter of Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, by his second wife, the Lady Charlotte Finch, by whom he had issue John, Lord Roos, who died young; Charles, who succeeded to the honours and estates on the death of John, the third Duke, in 1779; Robert, a Captain in the Navy, who died bravely of his wounds in 1781; Frances, married, first, to George Carpenter, Earl of Tyrconnel, secondly, to Philip Lesley, second son to David, Lord Newark; Catherine, and Caroline, who died infants.



Engraved by H. Hudson.

JOHN RUSSELL, DUKE OF BEDFORD.

OB. 1771.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

HIS GRACE, THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, Published Jan.ʸ 1, 1838, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

JOHN

FOURTH

JOHN RUSSELL,

FOURTH DUKE OF BEDFORD.

This nobleman was born on the thirtieth of September, 1710, and on the death of his brother, Wriothesley, the third Duke, on the twenty-third of October, 1732, he succeeded to the titles and estates of his ancestors. His private life furnishes very scanty materials for biography; and although he had given unequivocal proofs of the tendency of his political opinions by the part he took against Sir Robert Walpole in 1742, it was not until 1744 that he engaged himself in the public business of the country in which it was afterwards his lot to play a conspicuous part. Towards the close of the latter year the government of Lord Granville had become so unpopular, and was so strenuously opposed, that he was compelled to resign. A new ministry, which is known in history by the name of the Broad-bottom administration, then given to it in derision, succeeded, in which the Duke of Bedford was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, and was sworn a member of the Privy Council. On the King's going to visit his German dominions in 1745, the Duke was nominated one of the Lords Justices during his absence. In the latter part of that year, and while George the Second was abroad, Charles Edward, the son of the first Pretender, or, as he was most commonly called in England, the Young Chevalier, having been induced to believe that the kingdom was ripe for revolt, made his rash attempt to recover the crown which his ancestors had worn, by landing in Scotland. The Duke of Bedford, who had been appointed, in the May preceding, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Bedford, was the first of the English nobility who raised, at his own cost, a

regiment of foot for the defence of the country, an example that was followed with alacrity, and helped to stimulate the public feeling to that open demonstration of loyalty and union, which soon extinguished the partial rebellion, and put an end to the hopes of its promoters for ever.

Although he had thus given unquestionable proof of his attachment to the established government, he did not hesitate to oppose, in the House of Lords, in the same year, a proposition for extending the penalties of high treason to the posterity of persons who should be convicted of corresponding with the sons of the Pretender. On this occasion he introduced, in an able and energetic speech, a touching allusion to the melancholy history of his own family. "Your lordships," he said "cannot be surprised that I am alarmed at the proposal of a law like this—I, whose family has suffered so lately the deprivation of its rank and fortune by the tyranny of a Court;—I, whose grandfather was cut off by an unjust prosecution, and whose father was condemned for many years to see himself deprived of the rights of his birth, which were at length restored to him by more equitable judges. It is surely reasonable, my lords, that I should oppose the extension of penalties to the descendants of offenders, who have scarcely myself escaped the blast of an attainder."

The early part of 1746 was distinguished by an event which even the fluctuations of English politics, rapid and capricious as they have often been, have hardly ever paralleled. The displaced ministers, Lord Granville and Lord Bath, had regained the favour of the monarch, and their influence was felt by the Duke of Newcastle to an extent which rendered it impossible for him to carry on the government, while adversaries so potent were allowed secretly to contravene his plans. Having first ensured the co-operation of Lord Cobham and his party, the Duke of Newcastle on the twentieth of February, 1746, resigned the seals, which the King immediately bestowed upon Lord Granville. On the following day a universal resignation of all the government officers took place. The King, whose knowledge of the politics of the nation

he had been called to govern had not enabled him to foresee this step, was perplexed; and Lord Granville, who was fully aware of the consequences of entering on an administration which would be opposed by the numerous enemies he had thus provoked, resigned in haste and dismay the power he had so recently reassumed. In three days the late ministry was reinstated; and upon this occasion the office of Warden and Keeper of the New Forest was added to the appointments which the Duke of Bedford had before held.

With the exception of the temporary change that has been noticed, the ministry of which the Duke of Bedford was a member continued until the conclusion of the peace in 1748, although the same unanimity which had distinguished it upon its first formation did not always prevail. In February, 1748, he was appointed Secretary of State for the Southern Department. His discharge of this office gave rise to dissensions between himself and the Duke of Newcastle. The Duke of Bedford complained that his colleague engrossed to himself the whole management of the affairs of their office, and that his demeanour was haughty and cold—manners so repugnant to his own temper, which was open and frank in a remarkable degree, that he looked upon them as personal affronts. The Duke of Newcastle, on the other hand, alleged that the official affairs which should have been transacted by the Duke of Bedford were neglected; that his fondness for trivial amusements and rural sports, the carelessness, and sometimes the obstinacy of his disposition, rendered him negligent of his duties and impracticable in business. It is probable that these complaints were well grounded on either side, and that a conviction of this contributed to widen the breach between them. The Duke of Bedford's dislike of his colleague increased daily, and he not only took no pains to conceal it, but gave proofs of it, which could not be mistaken or forgiven, by attaching himself to the Duke of Cumberland and the Princess Amelia, neither of whom was favourable to the Duke of Newcastle. The latter determined upon the readiest revenge by preparing the means of ridding

himself of so uncongenial a companion as the Duke of Bedford had become.

The death of the Prince of Wales in 1751, by dividing the opposition, furnished an opportunity of which the Pelhams availed themselves to effect this and other plans they had formed for strengthening their power. In June, 1751, Lord Sandwich was removed; the same fate befell other friends of the Duke, and he perceived that his own dismissal was resolved on. On the following day he repaired to the King at Kensington, and resigned the seals into his Majesty's own hands. In the interview which took place on this occasion, the Duke is said to have expressed his resentment and indignation at the conduct of the Pelhams in terms which went far beyond the bounds of ordinary etiquette. He inveighed bitterly against his late colleague in particular, whom he accused of haughtiness and treachery, and enlarged upon the good qualities of Lord Sandwich and others, who had been displaced by the Duke of Newcastle, with a view of securing to himself and his brother all the offices and power of the state. The King received these expostulations with great mildness; expressed his disbelief in Mr. Pelham's being implicated in the charge brought by the Duke against him and his brother; and, with respect to Lord Sandwich, his Majesty observed that he had very few friends. The King acknowledged the sense he entertained of the attachment which the Duke had always evinced for his brother, the Duke of Cumberland, and ended by pressing on him the post of Master of the Horse, which his Grace declined to accept.

From this period the Duke of Bedford was to be reckoned as the leader of a division of the opposition, and took a strong part in the discussions respecting the education of the heir to the crown. In March, 1753, he moved for the production of the examinations and papers connected with certain charges against the prince's preceptors, which was negatived; and in further prosecution of the design to overthrow what was called the system of Leicester House, which he avowed, was concerned in circulating a sort of

remonstrance entitled "A Memorial of several Noblemen of rank and fortune," in which the charge of Jacobitism, and intended treason, was distinctly brought against the persons who were intrusted with the education of the future King. The Bedford party was, however, at this time, neither strong nor popular enough to exercise any great influence over the public mind, or to excite the fears of their adversaries.

On a partial change of ministry, at the end of the year 1756, the Duke of Bedford was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This was, perhaps, of all his public employments, that for which his character and habits best fitted him. He possessed an uncommon share of firmness, which his enemies called obstinacy; and as he was besides fond of splendour and display, and was of a frank, convivial disposition, his administration was at once useful and popular in a country proverbially famed for hospitality, and which had long suffered under a deficient and mischievous system of evil government. The Irish court, during the time he presided over it, presented an appearance of gaiety and content to which it had long been unused. During the period of the Duke's government in Ireland, Thurot, a French pirate, who had been favoured by the court of Versailles, and whose depredations had rendered him formidable to the British merchant shipping, ventured, in the course of one of the excursions he made with a view of plundering the British coast, to land at Carrickfergus; and as the commandant of the place was wholly unprepared to resist such an attack, he was compelled, after a short but gallant defence, to capitulate. The triumph of the French adventurer was, however, as fleeting as it had been accidental. The whole of the militia in the neighbouring districts was immediately called out, and he was compelled to re-embark with the utmost possible haste, in order to escape their vengeance. He was encountered in his retreat by Captain Elliott, of the Æolus, and two other frigates; and coming to an engagement, after a desperate conflict, Thurot was killed, and his three ships taken.

In 1761, Lord Halifax succeeded the Duke of Bedford in the government of Ireland, and his Grace was recalled and appointed Keeper of the Privy Seal. When in 1762 the treaty of peace with France had been agreed to, the Duke was commissioned as minister plenipotentiary to the court of Versailles, for the purpose of concluding and signing the preliminaries. As every article relative to the intended peace had been agreed to by the English government, his Grace's office was designed by Lord Bute, who had been the means of his appointment, to have been little more than nominal, and his functions confined to the mere operation of subscribing the treaty which had been concluded. His notorious indifference, and the carelessness of his temper, not less perhaps than the station he held in the country, had caused him to be selected for this task; and, calculating upon his compliance, the minister ventured to despatch after him a messenger, who reached him at Calais, with instructions limiting the full powers he had received at his departure. This intimation provoked the Duke's indignation; and he sent back the messenger on the instant, with a letter in which he insisted that his former instructions should be restored without any restriction, or he threatened to prosecute his journey no further. Lord Bute, alarmed at the failure of his ill-considered attempt, immediately complied, and the Duke repaired to the French court. Soon after he arrived, the news of our having captured the Havannah was received in France; and upon this additional advantage to the British interests becoming known, his Grace demanded some equivalent to be given by France for the cession of that place. Florida and Porto Rico were the possessions he required to be ceded: the first was readily yielded; but the second, it was said, could not be complied with unless the court of Madrid would consent; and a messenger being despatched thither, the signing the preliminaries was delayed until his return. This interval was employed in making an application to the English government, which succeeded so well, that the Duke shortly afterwards received positive orders to sign the treaty on Florida alone being given up. The terms upon which this peace

was concluded excited loud and bitter animadversions in England. Charges of corruption were liberally heaped, by the instigators of the popular censure, against Lord Bute who had planned, and against the Duke of Bedford who had been the instrument of concluding it. The envenomed acrimony of the celebrated political writer who used the signature of "Junius" lent a temporary weight to the basest calumnies which it suited the purposes of party spirit to circulate, and from which it would be much easier to defend the Duke than to excuse him for a too easy compliance with the orders of a ministry, the honesty as well as the capacity of which he had abundant reason to doubt.

In April, 1763, Lord Bute retired, and the Granville administration was formed, in which the Duke of Bedford held the post of President of the Council. A period of two years sufficed to make this ministry, which had never been very popular, generally obnoxious. The silk trade had declined since the peace; and the cause of this misfortune was ascribed to the measures of the existing government, the members of which were pointed out as victims for the popular fury. The Duke of Bedford's house was attacked by a tumultuous assembly of silk-weavers, and the work of destruction which they had begun was only stopped by the resolute interference of the military. The opposition of the ministers to the Regency Bill, which was supposed to have been instigated by him, had estranged from them the King's favour; and at length, in an interview with his Majesty, his Grace is said to have permitted himself the use of such language as could not be endured, and the government of which he formed a part was consequently dissolved. The Rockingham administration was then constituted, which shortly afterwards was displaced by that of Lord Chatham; and although the Duke was more than once on the point of coalescing with the latter, the negotiations were broken off. In June, 1767, the Duke of Grafton's solicitations induced the Bedford party to separate from their friends; and on that occasion the Duke resumed his Presidency of the Privy Council, which he held until his death, on the fifteenth of January, 1771.

The important station which he filled exposed the Duke, during almost the whole period of his public life, to the animadversions of the organs of the parties to which he was opposed, and of these the brilliant and unprincipled calumniator whose name is hidden, probably for ever, under the appellation of Junius was the foremost. The temper of the Duke was so much above disguise, that it afforded easy opportunities to so dexterous a partisan as that writer, whose chief talent consisted in making "the worse appear the better reason"—of magnifying small faults into enormous atrocities. The charges were not believed even amidst the intoxication that accompanied the excitement during which they were at first preferred; and it would be idle now to attempt to rescue the name of the Duke of Bedford from imputations wholly without foundation or proof.

With moderate talents, and of habits which did not incline him to cultivate even those talents very assiduously, he nevertheless distinguished himself in debate; while his naturally good disposition and undaunted temper gave a weight to his character. In his friendships he was frank and zealous, and not less earnest in his enmity. Mr. Fox, who knew him well, said he was "the most ungovernable governed man in the world;" an estimate which at once explains the affection and esteem of his friends, and the provocations which had excited the rancorous attacks of his foes.

His Grace was married first, in Oct., 1731, to Lady Diana, daughter of Charles Spencer, third Earl of Sunderland, who died, Sept., 1735, without leaving issue. In April, 1737, he was again married, to Lady Gertrude, eldest daughter of John, Earl Gower, by whom he had one son, Francis, Marquis of Tavistock, born Sept. 26, 1739, and who was killed by a fall from his horse while hunting. That nobleman left three sons, the eldest of whom, Francis, succeeded to the title and estates of his grandfather; and on his death without issue, they devolved upon his brother John, the sixth Duke of Bedford of his noble family.

Engraved by H Robinson

HENRY FOX, FIRST LORD HOLLAND.

OB. 1774.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE LORD HOLLAND.

London Published Oct. 1 1834 by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

Was second son of

with Christian H

Naseby, in Lincolnsh

He was born in

lose both his parents

His education, however,

at Eton; was entered a

Oxford, in February,

versity before he left

brothers, and

seems to have

of that

to have

much of his

made him

Portsmouth, the mistress of

advanced period of

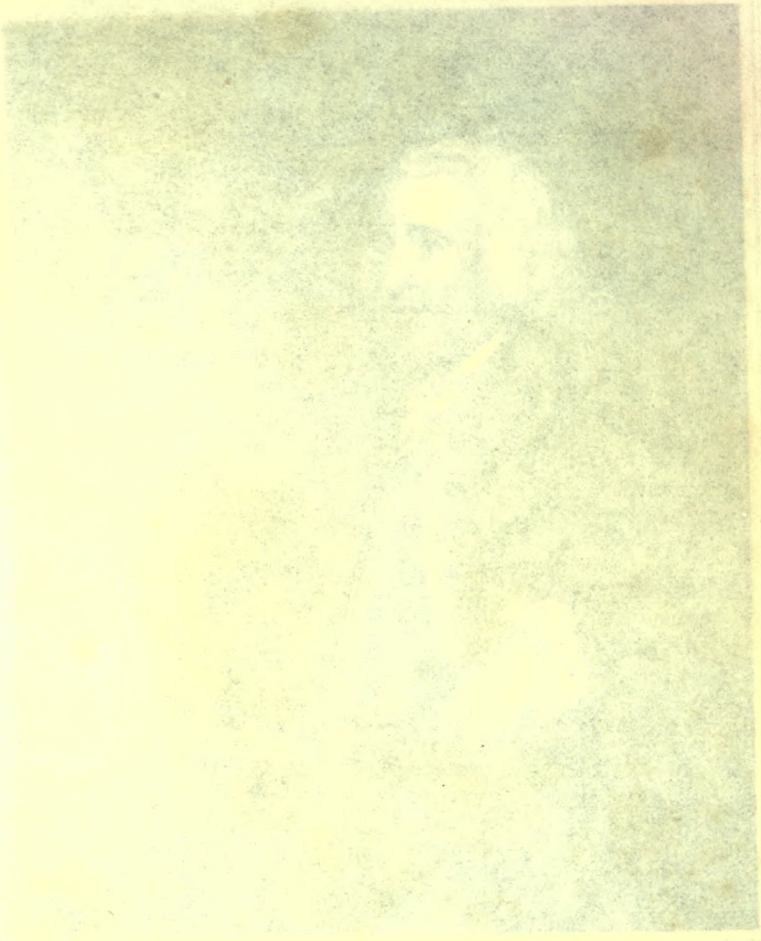
afterwards destined to marry

his son, Mr. Fox, has recorded

unjustly, she was thoroughly

had died of poison.

During his absence from England,



HENRY FOX,

FIRST LORD HOLLAND,

Was second son of Sir Stephen Fox, by his second marriage with Christian Hope, daughter of the Reverend Charles Hope, of Naseby, in Lincolnshire.

He was born in September, 1705; and had the misfortune to lose both his parents before he arrived at years of discretion. His education, however, was not neglected. He was some years at Eton; was entered a gentleman commoner at Christ Church, Oxford, in February, 1721; and had taken a degree in that university before he left it in December, 1724. Though a younger brother, and of a family recently emerged from obscurity, he seems to have followed the same career as young men of fortune of that day; and, when his academical education was completed, to have embraced no particular profession, and to have spent much of his time in foreign travel. It is remarkable, that accident made him pass some time at Aubigny with the Duchess of Portsmouth, the mistress of Charles the Second, and then at an advanced period of life, whose descendant he was many years afterwards destined to marry. From her own lips he heard what his son, Mr. Fox, has recorded in his history, that, justly or unjustly, she was thoroughly persuaded that Charles the Second had died of poison.

During his absence from England, Mr. Fox travelled for some

time with the celebrated Lord Hervey, who had the hardihood to contend with the formidable satirist Pope, in virulent lampoons, and to engage with Dr. Middleton, on a question of historical research with respect to the composition of the Roman senate. The friendship of Mr. Fox with Lord Hervey, and the causes that led to a subsequent breach of it, are described, with some severity, by Lord Chesterfield, to have arisen from adventures and amours, more fit for the scandalous chronicle than for this work, and not very creditable to either party. Be that as it may, it is certain, that, during his connexion with Lord Hervey, he was second to that nobleman in his duel with Mr. Pulteney, and was reported to have acted with great propriety and honour in that affair; and it may be safely conjectured, that the good offices of his friend, who was a great favourite of Queen Caroline, and a staunch supporter of Sir Robert Walpole, recommended him to the notice of the court, and to the patronage of that eminent statesman. In truth, if familiarity with the great, and indulgence in fashionable vices, had impaired his fortune at an early period of life, there is little doubt that he had ingratiated himself with many, such as Mr. Winnington and, more particularly, Lord Sunderland, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, who assisted him in repairing it.

To the interest of the latter nobleman he was indebted for his seat in parliament; and the friendship between them continued without interruption till the death of the Duke, in Germany, in 1759. Mr. Fox had been his chief adviser in his marriage, which lost him the favour, and had well nigh lost him the fortune, of his grandmother, the capricious Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. That splenetic old lady, on being asked in a public theatre who was that gentleman opposite, in conversation with her grandson, is reported to have exclaimed, "Who is he? why that is the Fox that has run away with my Goose."

In parliament, where he was chosen for Hindon, in 1735, Mr. Fox devoted himself to the cause of Sir Robert Walpole; and was not only admitted, together with his friends, Mr. Winnington and Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, to familiar and intimate inter-

course with that social minister, but was rewarded by more solid marks of confidence and gratitude. In 1737, he was appointed Surveyor of the Board of Works; and in 1743, on the fall of the ministry that turned out Sir Robert, he was named, as one of the friends and partizans of that minister, Commissioner of the Treasury, when he was re-elected for Windsor, for which borough, through the interest of the Duke of Marlborough, he had been elected into the House of Commons in 1741. He continued to hold this office, and was an active member of government in Mr. Pelham's administration; and his interest and importance were rather strengthened than impaired by an incident in his private life, which gave scandal, and created a great sensation in the fashionable world. This was his clandestine marriage, in 1744, with Lady Caroline Lennox, eldest daughter of the Duke of Richmond. Her father and relatives were in the first instance indignant at an alliance, which, according to the notions of those days, was deemed derogatory to a great family; but the consideration, which his talents and services rapidly acquired for him at court and in parliament, gradually reconciled the noble family of his wife to the connexion; and the head of it, as well as many of the branches, condescended ere long to solicit and accept favours from the son of the plebeian, Sir Stephen Fox, who no doubt in his turn found his account in attaching a powerful family to his interests.

Mr. Fox, who, through the interest of the Duke of Marlborough, retained his seat for Windsor, was appointed Secretary of War soon after the abortive attempt of Lord Granville to assume the supreme direction of affairs in 1746. The reputation of Mr. Fox for sterling abilities in business, and for great skill and readiness in debate, now stood very high. His spirit in protecting his friends, both in and out of parliament, from the unjust clamours of the multitude, and the more secret intrigues of ministers themselves, were not less conspicuous than in vindicating the measures of government; and this quality ingratiated him with many powerful noblemen of that day, and, together with his

readiness and felicity in reply, rendered him not altogether an unequal match to the celebrated and eloquent Mr. Pitt, to whom, as an orator, he was far inferior. Horace Walpole, in the language no doubt of partiality, describes his style of speaking, in a paper of the "World," published in 1748, in the following words:—"In the House of Commons he was for some time an ungraceful and unpopular speaker, the abundance of his matter overflowing his elocution; but the force of his reasoning has prevailed, both over his own defects and those of his audience. He speaks with a strength and perspicuity of argument that commands the admiration of an age apt to be more cheaply pleased, and has been at the idle labour of making himself fame and honours by pursuing a steady and regular plan, when art and eloquence would have carried him to an equal height; and made those fear him who now only love him, if a party can love a man who they see is connected with them by principles, not by prejudices." And Lord Waldegrave, who was also his friend, but whose judgment was less swayed by the prepossession of the moment, says of him—"As to Fox, few men have been more unpopular; yet, when I have asked his bitterest enemies what crimes they could allege against him, they always confined themselves to general accusations; that he was avaricious, encouraged jobs, had profligate friends, and dangerous connections; but never could produce a particular fact of any weight or consequence."—"He has great parliamentary knowledge, but is rather an able debater than a complete orator; his best speeches are neither long nor premeditated; quick and concise replication is his peculiar excellence."—"In business he is clear and communicative; frank and agreeable in society; and though he can pay his court on particular occasions, he has too much pride to flatter an enemy, or even a friend, where it is necessary."—"Upon the whole, he has some faults, but more good qualities; is a man of sense and judgment, notwithstanding some indiscretion; and with small allowances for ambition, party, and politics, is a warm friend, a man of veracity, and a man of honour."

His office of Secretary at War brought him into continual contact with the Duke of Cumberland; and his intrepidity, which we have alluded to above, in facing clamour and defying intrigue, secured him the favour of that illustrious prince, who was not less reprehensible for a haughty and repulsive contempt of popularity than commendable for a disdain of all dirty intrigue. Such favour added, no doubt, to Mr. Fox's importance; but it was nevertheless among the causes which defeated the main object of his ambition, to become the chief minister of the country. From attachment to the Duke, he arraigned without scruple or reserve those parts of the Regency Bill, which, in his judgment, deprived his Royal Highness of the weight and influence due to his birth and station, and which were in truth the fruits of an understanding between the ministry and the court of Leicester House, with a view of propitiating the favour of the heir-apparent to the former. When George the Second questioned Mr. Fox upon his speeches on that occasion, he is reported to have answered—"I said what I did against it, because all that was said for it was against the Duke." The King rejoined, "I thank you for that, my affection is with my son—I assure you I like you the better for wishing well to him."

This approbation of the father, however flattering, was, in a worldly point of view, a sorry substitute for the popularity he lost by his intemperate zeal for the son. The prejudices against the Duke were inveterate, and almost universal; and Mr. Fox, who combated them most warmly, and never scrupled to expose the fallacy or malevolence of his opponents with the most pointed severity, shared the odium of his royal patron and friend. His faults were exaggerated, his good qualities suppressed or misrepresented. He was accused of arbitrary principles, suspected of a design to subvert the constitution, and branded as one of the most corrupt of the corrupt school of Sir Robert Walpole. Still he possessed great ascendancy in the House of Commons; and if he had not imprudently betrayed his impatience to be minister, it was the opinion of many men of judgment and discernment, and among them of Lord Waldegrave, author of the Memoirs,

that he would have attained the great object of his ambition. But, even during the lifetime of Mr. Pelham, his aspiring views are said to have transpired. Some of his own party grew jealous of him, and his enemies were furnished with topics for arraigning his ambition. Nettled at the notion, founded or unfounded, that Lord Hardwicke, in the proposal of the famous Marriage Bill, had alluded with pointed reprehension to the circumstances of his brother's, Lord Ilchester's, marriage with a minor, he preserved no moderation in his resistance to the measure, and in his invectives and sarcasms against the author of it. The Chancellor never forgave him ; and the weight of his resentment was felt in all the numerous negotiations and party overtures which occurred during the remaining years of King George the Second's reign. It is but just, in censuring the intemperate lengths with which the opposition of Mr. Fox, still in office, was carried to a measure proposed by the minister, to observe that the measure itself was liable to many weighty objections in principle ; that in its consequences it has been productive of so many inconveniences as to have called for a revision, amounting almost to a repeal, in our own times ; and that as it was originally introduced, it was full of many harsh and unwarrantable provisions, which the amendments of Mr. Fox either softened or removed.

On the death of Mr. Pelham in 1754, Mr. Fox, then Secretary at War, was thought the fittest person to succeed him. The Duke of Newcastle, who, although he did not love him, was perfectly aware of his weight in the House, and of his qualifications for the discharge of the duties of office, at first entertained the intention of agreeing to any terms by which his co-operation and assistance might be ensured, and requested Lord Hartington, afterwards the third Duke of Devonshire, to negotiate with him for this purpose. Mr. Fox named his terms, which were that, as he was to hold the important station of Leader of the House of Commons, he should possess the power which had in Mr. Pelham's hands belonged to that office ; that he should be acquainted with the disposal of the secret-service money, which was then

notoriously employed in remunerating the members who voted with the Government; and that he should have a voice in the nomination of members to be returned for the Treasury boroughs in the ensuing elections.

Upon these proposals being communicated to the Duke by Lord Hartington, they were distinctly acceded to, and Mr. Fox considered himself as fixed in the position to which he had long aspired. The weakness and jealousy of the Duke of Newcastle, and the intrigues of his enemies, however, disappointed his hopes. The Princess of Wales, who exercised no inconsiderable influence over the Duke, hated Mr. Fox for his attachment to the Duke of Cumberland, and for the sentiments he had expressed on the Regency Bill. The Chancellor is suspected of having suggested his apprehensions that the Duke of Newcastle would find his intended colleague troublesome, if not dangerous. Mr. Fox had also by his unsparing sarcasms upon the Scotch nation, and on the members of the legal profession, excited the implacable enmity of those bodies, who added the whole weight of their opposition to the machinations of his other foes. The Duke of Newcastle broke off, at the expense of his honour, the engagement into which he had entered. With a man of Mr. Fox's temper, it was not difficult to bring this about. The Duke refused, in an interview which took place between them, to perform the arrangement which had been agreed upon as to the secret-service money and the treasury members. Mr. Fox urged, that it was impossible for him to lead the House of Commons without the power for which he had stipulated. The Duke replied it was a power which he was resolved not to share with any one. He was reminded of his agreement with Lord Hartington, which he did not deny; and gravely alleged, that he had consented to it at a moment when his distress of mind, occasioned by the loss of his brother, Mr. Pelham, had so distracted him, that he had not given the matter sufficient consideration; in short, that he was resolved not to fulfil it. Mr. Fox would not abate in his demands, and in utter disgust refused to take any office

under the new administration. The interference of the King was resorted to for the purpose of preventing this separation, or rather perhaps with a view of giving a colour of fairness to the Duke of Newcastle's proceeding. His Majesty requested Mr. Fox to accept the office of Secretary of State, but either did not or would not understand the reasons which influenced his refusal, and the audience closed by the King's expressing a resolution never again to obtrude his favours on any one. Sir Thomas Robinson was appointed Secretary of State, and Mr. Fox, although he retained his office of Secretary at War, joined in a sort of opposition.

The death of Mr. Pelham had, in a great degree, broken up the parties which had united in support of his administration. The Whigs were divided into clans, and voted under several leaders. The Pelham party were still large and powerful; but Mr. Fox found himself also at the head of a division consisting of many of his personal friends, and of many more political followers, who, notwithstanding his recent disappointment, had great confidence in his talents, and a strong belief that he would yet become the Premier. In opposition his power became daily more formidable. Mr. Pitt who, though still in the service of the Government, yet more openly attacked the measures of the Minister, joined Mr. Fox in his endeavours to weaken and expose the inefficiency of the persons whom the recent change had raised to power. While he directed the full force of his opposition against the then Solicitor-General, afterwards Lord Mansfield, Mr. Fox amused himself by ridiculing Sir Thomas Robinson, and by provoking that minister to expose his unfitness for the office from which Mr. Fox had been excluded. The Duke of Newcastle saw that his government could not stand against this powerful union. He first made overtures, through Mr. Charles Yorke, to Mr. Pitt, who, believing that the King's want of confidence in him, which had been openly manifested, was occasioned by the Duke of Newcastle, refused, until that proscription, as he called it, was taken off, to enter into any conversation whatever either with the

Duke or with any other person from him. Foiled in his first attempt, his Grace was next compelled to endeavour to propitiate the man whom he had so lately insulted and endeavoured to degrade. The task was difficult. Mr. Fox's resentment was yet warm, and the Duke was too insincere and crafty to meet him in the only way in which it was practicable to close the breach between them. At length Lord Waldegrave was applied to, and after some negotiations, in which he has recorded that Mr. Fox behaved like a man of sense, and that the Duke was mean and shuffling, he induced each of them to give way. Mr. Fox gained the main point of his ambition, was appointed Secretary of State in November 1755, and, with the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Anson, planned and carried into effect the warlike operations which ensued.

This triumph, however gratifying it might be at the time to his pride, added little either to his fame or to his happiness. He expected no great cordiality from the Duke of Newcastle, who had been forced, against his inclination, to admit him to a share of his power; but he was not prepared for the obstacles which the want of confidence and candour in his colleague presented to the discharge of his duties. The interference of the intriguing adherents of the Duke, who regarded with dismay the rise of so formidable a person, fomented the Minister's jealousy, and induced him to look at every part of Mr. Fox's conduct rather as that of an enemy whom he feared, than of an ally whose assistance he had invoked. The behaviour of the King exposed him to still greater mortifications. The Monarch could not forget that Sir Thomas Robinson, to whom he was extremely partial, had been displaced by Mr. Fox; and, finding the latter less conversant in foreign affairs than with the business of Parliament, his Majesty is said to have dropped some ungracious hints that a man who was a good talker in the House of Commons might, nevertheless, be a very indifferent Secretary of State. The painfulness of his position from these causes, joined to the ill success of the operations of the war, and the increasing strength of the opposition,

from which he anticipated a violent attack, in consequence of the disastrous loss of Minorca, and against which he saw little probability of his being effectually supported, determined him to avoid the approaching storm. He solicited an audience with the King, entered into a frank detail of the grievances of which he had to complain, and asked permission to resign, which was granted.

The Duke of Newcastle, now perfectly sensible of the weakness of the Administration of which he was the head, and terrified at the public hatred and distrust which his measures and their results had provoked, obtained the King's commands to invite Mr. Pitt to take office. A flat refusal to join with his Grace in any shape was the reply to his overtures, and the Duke was consequently obliged to resign. The formation of a new Administration, on his own terms, was then proposed to Mr. Pitt through the Duke of Devonshire, with the single stipulation on the part of the King that Mr. Fox should be retained; but to this also Mr. Pitt refused to accede, and in November, 1756, he undertook the management of the public business, at the head of an administration of which he had the sole formation, occupying himself that post of Secretary of State which Mr. Fox had just before relinquished. The want of confidence which subsisted between the King and his new servants caused this arrangement to continue only to the April following, when the Ministry was broken up. Lord Waldegrave was then employed by the King to form, in conjunction with Mr. Fox, a new administration; but the attempt having failed, in consequence of the reluctance of the Duke of Newcastle's friends to take office without his Grace, His Majesty was unwillingly compelled to give way to Mr. Pitt and to the Duke of Newcastle, who had in the meantime coalesced, stipulating only that Mr. Fox should be Paymaster of the Forces. This office, which was then a place of great emolument, he continued to hold till 1765, when he was removed, as a friend of Lord Bute, by Mr. George Grenville, on the temporary return of that gentleman to office, after his first dismissal. Lord Holland, as he had now

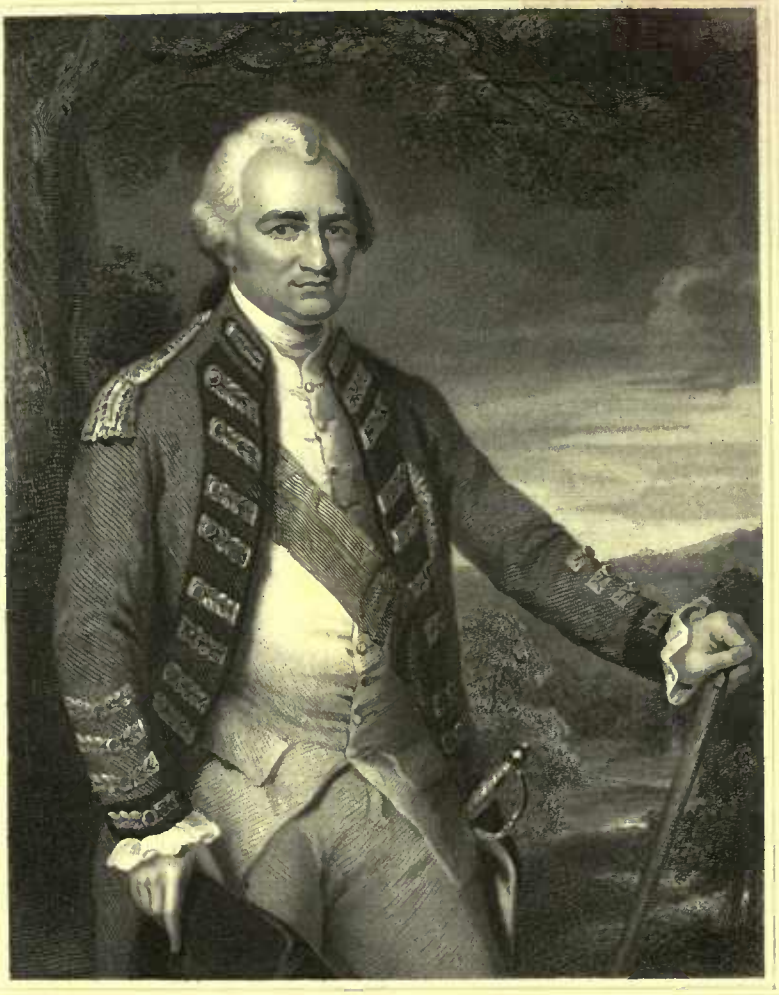
become, was not restored by the Rockingham party when they came into power, as they did within a few weeks; and from that time he took little part in public affairs.

In the year 1763 he had been prevailed upon by Lord Bute, and by the earnest and personal solicitation of His Majesty George the Third, to undertake, as leader of the House of Commons, the defence of the Peace of Fontainbleau. He discharged this task with greater spirit and success than was expected; but by the line he took on that occasion, the friendship which had so long subsisted between him and the Duke of Cumberland was destroyed, and they were never afterwards entirely reconciled.

On the 6th of May, 1762, his wife was created Baroness Holland, and on the 16th of April, 1763, he was raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Holland, Baron of Foxley in the county of Wilts, which dignity was limited to him and the heirs male of his body. By his marriage with Lady Caroline Lennox he had four sons, viz. Stephen, who succeeded to his title; Henry, who died in his infancy; Charles James, one of the most illustrious and enlightened members of the House of Commons; and Henry Edward. His Lordship was a member of the Privy Council, and held the place of Clerk of the Pells in Ireland, which was bestowed upon him in 1757, with the reversion after his death to two of his sons.

After his successful defence of the peace of Fontainbleau, his Lordship visited Paris, where he fell into ill health, from which he never afterwards wholly recovered. On quitting office, he made an excursion into Italy, passed a winter at Naples, a second winter at Nice, and did not return to England until the autumn of 1768. The latter years of his life were spent in retirement, between Holland House and Kingsgate, in the Isle of Thanet, where he built a villa in a somewhat eccentric taste, which provoked the satirical animadversions of the poet Gray, and others. From his return to England his health continued gradually to decline, until the first of July, 1774, when he died at Holland House, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

The prominent place which he so long filled, and the spirit of the times in which he lived, exposed him to the attacks of those who differed from him in politics, and by whom he has been painted as a profligate and unprincipled minister. The testimony of Lord Waldegrave, which we have quoted above, shows that in the judgment of that acute observer his virtues greatly preponderated over his vices; and that he was one of the most considerable public men of his time. All contemporary evidence concurs in representing him in private as sociable, friendly, and affectionate. Perhaps the most striking proof of his talents is to be found in the fact that he was for many years the most formidable rival of one of the greatest of English orators and statesmen. His public despatches, his poetical effusions, and such of his private letters as have been preserved, suffice to show that he could write with vigour, clearness, and ease.



Engraved by W. T. Mote

ROBERT, FIRST LORD CLIVE.

OB. 1774.

FROM THE ORIGINAL, IN

THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA.

London, Published Dec.r 1 1836, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

ROBERT, LORD CLIVE.

The varied and eventful life of Lord Clive is a proof that, although the age of romance has passed away, the spirit which animated it, and which gave rise to some of its most stirring and striking incidents, was not wholly extinguished in the last century. In other times there have been numerous instances of men raising themselves by the mere force of their individual characters and personal exertions, from obscurity and poverty to wealth and honour; but the middle ages could scarcely show among their Condottieri and Free Companions a more remarkable proof of the marvels which may be wrought by chance, combined with courage, talents, and decision, than is presented by the history of Lord Clive's exploits in India.

He was the eldest son of Richard Clive, Esq., and was born on the 29th of September, 1725, at Styche, near Market Drayton, in Shropshire, a seat which had been possessed by his ancestors from the reign of Henry the Seventh. His family, though of great respectability, was not very wealthy, and he was educated with a view to his being engaged in some active profession. At a very early period he gave unquestionable indications of a daring and enterprising spirit, but at the same time of a temper so uncontrollable as to occasion great apprehensions for his future welfare. It was probably the difficulty of training him to any more quiet employment that induced his father to procure for him an appointment of writer in the service of the East India Company, in which capacity, at the age of nineteen, he sailed for Madras.

Accident, which often shapes men's destinies, seems in this instance to have cast the youthful adventurer upon a theatre in all respects adapted for the turbulent energy of his disposition. India was at the period of his arrival marked out by the French government as a prey worthy of the grasping ambition which characterized the designs of that monarchy. M. Dupleix, a fit instrument for the completion of those designs, had industriously fermented the jealousy and discontent with which the potentates of India regarded the increasing importance of the mercantile society whose agents had seated themselves upon the soil, and had begun to plant the seeds of that power which was destined afterwards to add a rich and extensive empire to the possessions of Great Britain. At the moment of Mr. Clive's arrival, the Company's resources were so limited, that they could with difficulty maintain their ground, and they were, as it seemed, wholly unable to engage in a conflict with the overwhelming hosts that menaced them. He had not been in India two years when Madras, being attacked by the French Admiral, M. de la Bourdonnais, was compelled to surrender, and the whole of the Company's servants, civil and military, were made prisoners, but remained at large upon parole. Some objection being raised by M. Dupleix, who was chief in command of the French forces, to the terms of the treaty, he declined to ratify the capitulation. The English prisoners, indignant at the injustice of this refusal, resolved to consider the parole as no longer binding upon them. Several of them, among whom Mr. Clive was of the foremost, escaped, and, in the disguise of a native, he reached fort St. David's, about twenty-one miles to the south of Madras.

In the following year, 1747, tired of his civil employment, and feeling, perhaps, that a more stirring life was better suited to his own character and the circumstances into which he was thrown, he procured an ensign's commission in the military service, and applied himself to the duties of his new profession with an ardour and devotion which was the most satisfactory presage of his future success. Previous to this he had been engaged in several private

quarrels, in which, although perhaps it was his rashness that had engaged him, he evinced indisputable bravery and honourable feeling. In an attack on the French fort of Pondicherry he made his first essay in arms. The assault was unsuccessful, owing partly to the unfavourable weather, and more perhaps to the weakness of the English force, and to the inexperience of Admiral Boscawen, who commanded in warlike operations by land. In the hottest part of the engagement, and where the danger was most imminent, Mr. Clive distinguished himself, and was amongst the last to retreat when the commanding officer ordered the troops to fall back to St. David's.

The pacification which was soon after effected between Great Britain and France did not extend to India. The title of the reigning Rajah of Tanjore was disputed by his brother, and the English, in support of the pretensions of the latter, began to make war upon the Rajah by attacking the fort of Devi Cottah. The first attempt failed, and the British force was compelled to retreat to St. David's. Under the command of Major Stringer Lawrence, an officer of much greater ability than those who had previously directed the operations of the English army, the attack was subsequently renewed. Mr. Clive, then a lieutenant, solicited the command of a forlorn hope, which was reluctantly granted by Major Lawrence, and at the head of thirty-four Europeans, and seven hundred sepoys, he marched upon this desperate enterprise. They had approached the breach, where they were unexpectedly attacked by a party of cavalry. The sepoys fled at the first onset; the British troops under Mr. Clive's command were cut to pieces, and he and three others only escaped. Major Lawrence, seeing this disaster, ordered a general attack, which was made with such irresistible vigour, that the fortress was carried. The Rajah then made overtures of peace, which were accepted, and the English retained possession of their conquest.

A short interval of tranquillity ensued, when Mr. Clive returned to Madras, and resuming his civil duties, was appointed Commissary General, an office which was extremely lucrative, as well

as of great importance. At this period of his life he was attacked by a nervous fever, which, although he then overcame it, so shattered his constitution, that it left him a prey to that occasional depression of spirits which embittered his subsequent existence, and at length caused his death.

In 1751, an opportunity offered which induced him again to engage in that career which was best suited to his genius and his ambition. The French general had assisted Chunda Saib, the actual Nabob of Arcot, with a large force to assist in the reduction of Trinchinopoly. Mr. Clive, who was now promoted to the rank of captain, proposed to effect a diversion by taking possession of Arcot. This plan was determined on; with a small force he threw himself into the latter place, and was attacked, as he had expected, by the son of the Nabob, whom he repulsed with great loss. Being soon afterwards reinforced, he marched in pursuit of his assailant, whom, three days afterwards, he signally defeated in a general engagement in the open country. He followed up his success with a perseverance for which the foes with whom he had to cope were not at all prepared. Several important places surrendered to him; he retook possession of Arcot, which, upon his quitting it, had again fallen into the hands of the Nabob, and joining Major Lawrence, delivered Trinchinopoly. During the rest of the campaign, the army was composed of two divisions, one of which was placed under the command of Mr. Clive, although then only a junior captain, in consequence of the troops refusing to serve under any other leader. The success of the operations of this army was so great, that in a short time the whole province of Arcot was cleared, and the enemy and their French auxiliaries compelled to sue for peace, which was agreed to, on terms highly favourable to the interests of the Company.

Captain Clive then returned to Madras; and his health being in an enfeebled state, he embarked for England for the purpose of recruiting it. He was received with the honour and applause which his services had merited; was appointed to the command of Fort St. David, with the promise of that of Madras as soon as

it should become vacant: and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the army. The East India Company, to whom his exploits had produced very substantial advantages, testified their respect by presenting him with a diamond-hilted sword, which he refused, until a similar one had been bestowed on Major Lawrence, whom he stated to be as well entitled as himself to this distinction.

In 1756 he returned to India, and in the beginning of the following year engaged with Admirals Watson and Pocock in the attack on Geriah, by which the power of the Angrias, piratical chieftains, who had long disturbed the commerce of the Indian Seas, was annihilated. From this exploit he was recalled to the succour of the English possessions in the province of Bengal, which were then exposed to extreme peril from the warfare which had been commenced against them by the Surajah al Dowlat. Calcutta had been taken by this prince, and the English governor, and the other prisoners who fell into his power, treated with a wanton barbarity wholly unknown to the customs of European warfare. Colonel Clive, returning from Geriah, landed at Calcutta, and proceeded to assault the fort with such impetuosity that, although it was strongly fortified, and well supplied with troops and ammunition, it surrendered in less than two hours. The taking of Hoogley, a city of great commercial importance higher up the Ganges, followed; and these advantages so incensed the Surajah, that he marched with an almost overwhelming force against the English troops, and encamped about a mile from the town of Calcutta. Colonel Clive drew out his little army, and, reinforced by six hundred sailors furnished by Admiral Watson, forced the enemy to an engagement, in which the Asiatic troops were so roughly handled that they retreated in disorder, with the loss of a thousand men, and treasure and stores of great value. The Surajah was, by this defeat, compelled to propose a treaty of peace, which was accepted by Colonel Clive. The subsequent conduct of the chieftain proved however that it was his intention to violate this treaty as soon as he had so reinforced his armies that he might safely resume hostilities; and, assisted and encouraged by

the agents of France, he shortly after began a series of annoyances against the English commerce and interests which he knew must be intolerable. His tyranny and cruelty at the same time created many enemies among the highest personages at his court, and a conspiracy was formed against him by Meer Jaffier, his prime minister, and the commander of his armies, which mainly contributed to his overthrow. A revolt having taken place, Colonel Clive, by the advice of that minister, assisted the rebels. The Surajah marched against them with a force composed of fifty thousand foot, eighteen thousand horse, and fifty pieces of cannon, worked by French artillerymen. To oppose this force, Colonel Clive had three thousand two hundred men, of whom nine hundred only were Europeans. On the 23d of June, 1757, the armies came to an engagement in the plains near Plassey. The conflict, though violent at the commencement, was of short duration. The irregular valour of the Surajah's force was ill matched against the coolness, intelligence, and activity, of the European commander. The immense army was routed and put to flight, and the Nabob's camp, baggage, and artillery, fell into the hands of the victors. For want of cavalry, Colonel Clive was unable to derive all the advantages which might have resulted from this battle. He however marched immediately to Moorshedabad, the capital of the province; and, the Nabob having been killed in the pursuit, he proclaimed Meer Jaffier as his successor, and acknowledged him Suba, or Viceroy, of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa.

The power of England in the East was more firmly established by means of this victory than it had ever before been; and, although much remained to be done before they became masters of the Peninsula, it was owing to the active and enterprising designs of Colonel Clive, and to the sagacity with which he made available the advantages he had gained, that they were indebted for their ultimate triumph. The government of Calcutta was conferred upon him after this battle; and, among the most successful of his subsequent exploits, was the repulse of the army of the Great Mogul at the siege of Patna, and the defeat of the troops sent by the

Governor of Batavia under the pretence of assisting the Dutch Colonies, but for the real purpose of disturbing the British possessions. Honours, and wealth, to an enormous amount, crowned his victories: the Court of Delhi conferred upon him the dignity of Omrah, and the new Nabob testified his gratitude by granting him an annual revenue of twenty-eight thousand pounds sterling, besides presents of great value.

In 1760 he returned to England, and was elected one of the members for Shrewsbury. In November, 1761, the dignity of a Baron of Ireland was conferred upon him, by the title of Baron Clive of Plassey, of the County of Clare, in Ireland, in consequence of his services in India against the Surajah al Dowlat. The affairs of India declined during his absence. The financial circumstances of the government fell into embarrassment, and the powers of their numerous enemies increased, for want of that prompt and unremitting vigilance which he had maintained. He was solicited to resume the command he had relinquished, and again sailed to India in the post of Governor of the province of Bengal. He immediately occupied himself in correcting the abuses which had been permitted to grow up there; repressed the exactions to which a thirst for gain had impelled some of the Europeans to resort; and rescued the oppressed natives from the mischievous system which had begun, and which, unless checked, must have ended in the ruin of the country and the destruction of the English power. In the year 1767, he quitted India, and established himself in his native country for the remainder of his days.

The extent and importance of his achievements may be best conceived by considering the state of our affairs in India during his residence there. In 1756, the Company was a simple society of merchants, struggling to preserve the commercial privileges which had been granted to them, beset by open enemies, and encumbered with alliances to which they could not trust. In 1767, when Lord Clive quitted India, they had acquired a stable power which defied attack, and had raised their resources and importance to an extent which had never been paralleled, and could not have

been contemplated by the most sanguine imagination. To this state of things the intrepidity and address of Lord Clive had so eminently contributed, that, giving all the applause which is due to those who co-operated with him, the greater share of the glory properly belonged to him.

The task of wielding the power which had been gained proved however too great for the Company. Regarding their acquisitions only in the light of mercantile advantages, they lost sight of the principles by which a vast country, so conquered, could alone be preserved. The conduct of their agents, highly culpable as it was, sprang naturally from the circumstances in which they were placed, and the government of Great Britain found it necessary to interfere, in order to prevent the destruction of the colony. An inquiry was instituted in Parliament, to which Lord Clive lent the readiest and most efficient assistance. In the result it was found expedient to take the power of governing India out of the feeble hands into which it had fallen, and a pretext was found for this measure in the administration of public affairs there. The subject soon assumed the shape of a party proceeding, and Lord Clive was marked out as an object for the censure on which it was to be founded. With little information on the subject, beyond that which his lordship had himself voluntarily furnished, General Burgoyne, the Chairman of the Select Committee, moved a resolution, on the 21st of February, 1773, to the effect that Lord Clive had possessed himself of sums amounting to two hundred and thirty-four thousand pounds, under the denomination of private gifts, to the dishonour and detriment of the State.

Lord Clive defended himself against this attack upon his fortune and his honour with great ability and eloquence. To convince the House of the falsehood of the charge against him was not difficult. Every action of his life had been sufficiently public, and perhaps the most triumphant refutation of the slander was the amount of his wealth, large as it was. If he had been actuated by such motives as were imputed to him, his gains, considering the power and opportunities he possessed, would have been reck-

oned by millions. His vindication consisted of a minute detail of all the circumstances connected with the subject under discussion. "If," he said, in conclusion, "the resolution proposed should receive the assent of the House, I shall have nothing left that I can call my own, except my paternal fortune of eight hundred pounds a year, and which has been in the family for ages past. But upon this I am content to live; and perhaps I shall find in it more real content of mind and happiness than in the trembling affluence of an unsettled fortune. But to be called, after sixteen years have elapsed, to account for my conduct in this manner, and after an uninterrupted enjoyment of my property, to be questioned, and considered as having obtained it unwarrantably, is hard indeed, and a treatment of which I should think the British Senate incapable. Yet, if this should be the case, I have a conscious innocence within me which tells me that my conduct is irreproachable;—Frangas, non flectes. They may take from me what I have;—they may, as they think, make me poor, but I will be happy. Before I sit down, I have but one request to make to the House, that when they come to decide upon my honour, they will not forget their own." The frank manliness of his explanation won the confidence of the more candid portion of the assembly, and shamed the others from the dishonourable project they had conceived. The House negatived the proposed resolution by a large majority, and notwithstanding the opposition of the minister, Lord North, agreed "that Lord Clive had rendered great and meritorious services to his country."

From this time, the infirmity to which he had been long subject, and which was only relieved by the excitement of some engrossing and active pursuit, increased. At the commencement of hostilities with America, the chief command of the army destined for that country was offered to him, but declined on the score of his ill health and failing strength. His spirits never recovered their tone; his reason sunk under the weight of despondency, which disease, and perhaps disappointment, had engendered, and in an

access of delirium his existence terminated on the 22d of November, 1774.

Possessing a fertile and original genius, and implicit reliance upon his own resources, he was less indebted for his triumphs to the assistance of others than most men who have achieved greatness in the career he pursued. His judgment was correct, and the firmness and decision of his character fitted him for command. He is said to have possessed, in a very remarkable degree, the rare talent of inspiring confidence in those who acted under him; and to this may be in some degree ascribed the rapid success of his exploits in a profession for which he was not educated, and in which the natural bent of his genius supplied the want of more regular instruction. In Parliament he spoke rarely, but never without displaying remarkable ability. In private life his social qualities made him universally esteemed; he was generous and charitable, and, besides many acts of secret beneficence, he bestowed a sum of seventy thousand pounds for the support of invalids in the service of the East India Company.

He married, in India, in 1753, Margaret, daughter of Edmund Maskelyne, Esq., of Purton, in Wiltshire, and sister of the celebrated astronomer of that name, by whom he had nine children, the eldest of whom, Edward, succeeded him in his title and estates, and, having married the heir general of the then lately extinct Earls of Powis, was in 1804 elevated to that dignity; Richard, and Robert, who died young and unmarried; another Robert, in the army; Rebecca, wife of John Robinson, of Denston Hall, in Suffolk; Margaret, married to Lieutenant Colonel Lambert Theodore Walpole; Jane, Charlotte, and Elizabeth, who died unmarried.

Engraved by W Holl

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM.

OB. 1778.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF HOARE, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE LORD BRIDPORT.

London, Published Dec^r 1, 1806 by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East

WILLIAM PITT,

FIRST EARL OF CHATHAM.

THE existing condition of society precludes men who devote themselves to public business from encountering those accidents and from engaging in those adventures which at more remote periods of history have often shed the colours of romance over the realities of their lives. They are seldom distinguished by any remarkable events, personal to themselves, from their contemporaries; and when the public measures in which they have taken part, and the result of the national councils which they have directed shall have been described, the lives of most modern statesmen will have been written.

William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, was the second son of Robert Pitt, Esquire, of Boconnock, in Cornwall, the eldest son of Governor Pitt, the purchaser of the celebrated Pitt diamond, the largest then known to be in existence. His family was of respectable but not illustrious origin, and had been long settled in Dorsetshire. He was born at Westminster on the fifteenth of November, 1708; was educated at Eton; and was matriculated of Trinity College, Oxford, in January, 1726. The frequent and painful attacks of an hereditary gout which assailed him in his boyhood, and from which he suffered acutely during the whole of his life, prevented him from so applying himself to study as to acquire any distinguished academical honours. The abundant leisure, however, which the frequent confinements occasioned by his malady afforded him, was not neglected. He perused with all the ardour of a

congenial spirit the productions of the orators and historians of Greece and Rome, and imbibed from them that lofty and impassioned tone which first served to distinguish him in the British senate.

After making the tour of France and part of Italy, he returned to England, and the scantiness of his paternal fortune making it incumbent upon him to choose some professional pursuit, a cornetcy in the Blues was purchased for him.

In 1735 he was returned to Parliament for the borough of Old Sarum, which had been represented by his father and grandfather, and by this accident, or rather, as we may, without superstition, believe, by one of those arrangements which allot to human beings the posts in which they can most usefully exert the talents that have been bestowed upon them, he entered upon the career in which of all others he was most fitted to shine. The House of Commons was then under the management of Sir Robert Walpole, who had been too long used to the exercise of power to brook opposition where he thought he had the strength to crush it. Mr. Pitt having joined the ranks of opposition, was marked by the minister as an object of his vengeance, while the ability and talent which the young member had displayed hastened the blow. In accordance with the spirit of those times, when an opposition to the measures of government on the part of a military officer was looked upon as a species of insubordination, if not mutiny, Mr. Pitt was dismissed from his Majesty's service. The other engines by which Walpole maintained his influence were set at work to effect his object of humbling, and, as he perhaps hoped, of silencing an opponent, the sin of whose intractability was increased by his youth and the boldness with which he had avowed his opinions. In proportion as he was decried by one party, he became the idol of the other, and by these means, aided by the fierce indignation to which he had been roused by his undeserved persecution, he gained the first portion of that popular applause the love of which was the infatuation that beset his whole political life. The misunderstanding between the Prince of Wales and his father

George the Second, which had been long smothered, burst out in the year 1737 into an open and scandalous breach, and on some of the officers of the Prince's household throwing up their places, they were filled by the more distinguished members of the opposition. In this change, several of Mr. Pitt's friends openly proclaimed themselves the adherents of the heir-apparent, and Mr. Pitt accepted the post of His Royal Highness's Groom of the Bedchamber.

From this moment, if not at an earlier period, he must be looked upon as having committed himself entirely to the stormy sea of politics. Diligent and earnest in his attendance at the House of Commons, he frequently distinguished himself in the debates, and displayed a firmness of purpose as well as a facility of speech and readiness of reply which made him equally serviceable to the cause of which he was the adherent, and formidable to those who had provoked his enmity. In 1738, the position of this country with respect to Spain excited the liveliest interest. A convention had been entered into of which the preliminaries were definitively signed in the beginning of 1739. Against this treaty the warmest opposition was directed, and among the most vehement supporters of that opposition was Mr. Pitt. The versions of such of his speeches during this period as remain can only be received as representations of the general effect of what they were intended to convey. The greater part of them were written by Dr. Johnson for a periodical publication of the time, and bear marks of his peculiar style. Still it is unquestionable that the future statesman had established a reputation for eloquence which no man of his years had previously gained in Parliament, and he had at the same time, by his intrepid denunciation of measures which he thought objectionable on the part of the government, or injurious to the interests of the nation, gained a large party among those classes of the community in which public opinion is always most loudly uttered.

The parliamentary session of 1741 convinced Walpole that it was impossible for him much longer to withstand the general dissatisfaction he had excited. In the Parliament which ensued, his defeat upon several occasions rendered this still more evident.

He resigned—a new administration was formed, the constitution of which being repugnant to the principles of which he approved, Mr. Pitt continued with untiring energy to oppose their measures. A substantial testimony of approbation of his public conduct was rendered about this time by an individual who, with no mean powers of judgment, had been long a close observer of the political affairs of this country—Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, who in 1744 bequeathed to him a legacy of £10,000, "Upon account of his merit in the noble defence he had made for the support of the laws of England, and to prevent the ruin of his country."

The exertions which had ensured to him so large a share of the public approbation had, however, operated with a directly contrary effect upon the sources from which office and advancement flow. His strenuous opposition to the measures by which England was made to bear a burthensome share in continental warfare, for the sake of the King's favourite possession, Hanover, had so exasperated George the Second, that he unhesitatingly expressed his dislike of him, and refused to admit him into any share of the administration; nor was it until February 1746, when ministers resorted to the hazardous expedient of a general resignation, that his Majesty's determination could be shaken. Then it was, and under the pressure of the embarrassment into which the conduct of his advisers had cast him, that he bestowed upon Mr. Pitt the office of Vice-treasurer of Ireland, and in the May following that of Paymaster-General.

The possession of office worked no change in Mr. Pitt's public conduct. While he used the authority with which he was now invested to give effect to the principles he had ever advocated, his uncompromising hatred of all that was unjust or base betrayed him into such a haughtiness of demeanour, an error to which his temper was prone, as estranged many and incensed some of his colleagues, and added to that spirit of disunion which had long pervaded the cabinet. The King's dislike of him, which the Monarch hardly took the pains to conceal, wounded his pride; and the conviction that it was permitted, if not fomented, by the

Duke of Newcastle, exasperated Mr. Pitt to that degree, that he was not unwilling to find an opportunity for quitting a ministry, the head of which he cordially detested and had almost openly insulted. During the sessions of 1753 and 1754, he took the least possible share in the debates in parliament, and in that of 1755, his opposition to a subsidiary treaty which the King had concluded with Russia, and by which that power was to receive a large sum of money from Great Britain for providing a force for the general defence, brought about his dismissal from office.

The measures of the new administration were not of a nature calculated to endure the severe inspection and vigorous opposition which Mr. Pitt now openly carried on against them. The war had been unsuccessful; and the disgrace and loss to which the nation's honour and interests had been exposed drew down the loudest animadversions on the government, whose internal discords wholly incapacitated them from encountering the storm they had raised. A sense of their danger led them to listen to the general wish, that Mr. Pitt should be called upon to repair the consequences of their feeble counsels, and in October, 1756, the Duke of Newcastle, humbled and discomfited, made overtures to him to join the ministry, and assured him of that which they both knew was untrue, that the King would be well pleased to have him in his service. Mr. Pitt answered shortly, that he would accept of no office under the Duke. Upon this explicit refusal being communicated to the King, he authorized the Duke of Devonshire to offer to Mr. Pitt the formation of a new administration on his own terms, with the single condition, that Mr. Fox should be retained in it; and this offer also Mr. Pitt declined to accept. He was then asked to name his conditions, and having done so, they were immediately accepted; and in November, 1756, he entered upon the management of the public business as principal Secretary of State.

The plans of the new administration were better calculated to satisfy the public opinion which had been instrumental in its formation, than the particular views of the Monarch, who had been

compelled to resort to it against his inclination. Mr. Pitt was not less willing than the King himself to enter vigorously upon the prosecution of a war with France; but they differed equally in their notions of the manner in which it should be conducted and respecting the end to which it should subserve. Mr. Pitt's policy was to humble the power of France, whose continental encroachments he had long observed with the utmost jealousy, and to secure the prosperity of England by maintaining a due balance of power in the European states; but he was inflexibly resolved not to sanction the enormous sacrifices which the King was willing to make for the mere protection of Hanover. An army had been prepared to act under the command of the Duke of Cumberland, in Germany, and a supply of money being demanded for this service, with which Mr. Pitt and his colleague, Mr. Legge, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, explicity refused to comply, they were, in April, 1757, ordered to resign their offices. The Duke of Cumberland set out upon his ill-omened expedition, which in less than half a year terminated in the disgraceful capitulation of Kloster-Seven.

No similar event had at any period of English history produced so powerful a sensation upon the public mind as the dismissal of Mr. Pitt. Addresses of thanks were tendered to him from all quarters, and the freedoms of the principal corporations of the kingdom were unanimously voted to him in the most flattering terms. Those persons even who had been opposed to him and his measures looked with dismay at the consequences of his being withdrawn from the public service under such circumstances as had accompanied his dismissal, and at a time when his knowledge and promptitude of action rendered his assistance more than ever indispensable. The Duke of Newcastle was among the first to implore the King to recall him. The Monarch complied, with a reluctance which the exigency of the juncture made deeply painful and humiliating, and in June, 1757, Mr. Pitt again took office, not only without the recommendation of any of those powerful connections which commonly lead to such distinction, but directly

against the wish of the King, whose councils he was called upon to direct. He owed his elevation solely to the general belief that the nation was cast into a state of difficulty and danger, from which he was, of all public men, if not the only one, the most capable of extricating it. Again he had the formation of the ministry; but grown wiser from experience, he now included in it the Duke of Newcastle, whose influence in the House of Commons he had found was useful, if not necessary, for carrying on the public business.

The task which lay before him was a most arduous one. The King's obstinate prejudices and the ill-conceived operations of those ministers who had too readily favoured them, had involved the nation in difficulties from which it required the utmost energy and activity to rescue it. Mr. Pitt entered upon his office with vigour and determination; but his first measures were so unsuccessful, that they would have discouraged a less constant spirit than his. A marine expedition, which he had directed against Rochefort, returned without having effected its object. In America, the French arms were decidedly victorious; while the condition of the King of Prussia, pressed on every side, excited reasonable alarms that the British interests on the Continent must yield to the predominance of the same hostile powers. It was to avert this danger that Mr. Pitt's most earnest efforts had been at all times directed, and he now saw that, by supporting Frederic of Prussia, he should be able to accomplish the object for which he had always so strenuously laboured, and to carry into effect his plan, which was contained in the prophetic expression, that "America must be conquered in Germany," the truth of which was afterwards so clearly evinced. The affairs of the country soon resumed a more promising aspect; and the signal victory obtained by Frederic, at the battle of Rosbach, over the French and Austrian armies, afforded an opportunity by which England was enabled, at a comparatively small charge, to maintain her own continental possessions, and to keep in effectual check her most formidable enemy. This event at once convinced George the

Second of the profoundness and accuracy of his minister's views and won from him that confidence which he had been tardy in bestowing, but which he never afterwards withdrew. The punctuality, the talent, and the inflexible probity of Mr. Pitt in the discharge of his duty as a public servant, had mainly contributed to bring about this fortunate aspect of affairs. To trace the events of the seven years' war which continued during this part of Mr. Pitt's administration would here be superfluous; but it may with indisputable truth be stated, that in every quarter of the globe the British arms were triumphant, and that while they ensured the respect of all foreign nations, the same spirit which had produced that result had been equally fortunate in bringing the domestic and internal concerns of the empire to a flourishing and prosperous state.

The death of George the Second put an end to all the happy prospects which had begun to dawn upon the country. The influence of Lord Bute—more fatal and pernicious from the secrecy with which it was often exercised—began to shed itself over the public councils. France, humbled and weakened by the war to the last degree, had proposed to enter upon a treaty; and the negociations had been begun, but proceeded tardily, when Mr. Pitt received from Lord Marischal, the King of Prussia's minister at Madrid, information which convinced him of the dishonesty of the French Cabinet, and of an intended treachery on the part of the Spanish government. Acting upon the knowledge he had thus obtained, he proposed an immediate attack upon Spain by intercepting the supplies of specie then on their way from America, and for the receipt of which she was waiting only to make public the arrangement that had been entered into. The reception which this proposition met with in the council convinced him of the impracticability of attempting to carry on the government with such colleagues as the cabinet was now composed of. He urged the measure with all the force of his eloquence, and all his powers of reasoning, but in vain; Lord Bute openly opposed it, and many of the other ministers thought so important a measure required

great deliberation. At a time when moments were of the utmost importance to the success of the measure, to deliberate was to reject it. Mr. Pitt and Lord Temple gave their advice to the King in writing to recall the English minister from Madrid; and this advice being rejected, they resigned on the 5th of October, 1761. Three months afterwards, the English cabinet declared war against Spain, when the opportunity of doing so with effect had passed away; when the gross and repeated insults of the court of Spain had left them no alternative, and had deprived them of the credit as well as advantage which would have been gained by adopting Mr. Pitt's advice.

Mr. Pitt's resignation was accepted by the King, not without regret, as his Majesty said, although this expression was unaccompanied by any desire that he should continue in office. The interview which took place on this occasion between the King and the minister is said to have been creditable to the feelings of both. His Majesty, acknowledging the services which the latter had rendered to his country, requested him to name any recompense it was in the power of the Crown to grant; and Mr. Pitt, whose emotion at first prevented him from replying, having expressed a desire that his wife should be raised to the peerage, His Majesty directed a warrant to be prepared for creating her Baroness of Chatham, with a limitation of the title to her heirs male: and added to it the grant of a pension of £3000 per annum to Mr. Pitt for his own life, that of his lady, and of their eldest son. Although such a reward will not now be considered to have exceeded the merits in respect of which it was bestowed, it exposed Mr. Pitt at the time to the rancorous abuse of the hirelings of the party by which he had been defeated; while the public applause, and the satisfaction of his own conscience, were at least enough to console him for the undeserved charges of apostacy and desertion which were plentifully brought against him.

The war was carried on with indifferent success until the latter part of 1762, when on the meeting of Parliament in November, the terms of a treaty of peace with France and Spain were submitted

to the House. Mr. Pitt, though suffering from so acute an attack of gout that he was unable to stand, opposed the preliminaries, on the ground that they fell short of what the country had a right to demand. His illness compelled him to close his address, one of the most powerful and elaborate he ever delivered in parliament, before he had exhausted the subject on which he was speaking, and to leave the House before the division.

From this period, as often as his health permitted, he took part in the debates of the House of Commons, maintaining upon all occasions that consistency of opinion for which he was most remarkable, and which was never shaken. The death of Lord Egremont, in August, 1763, opened the way to a negociation for his again assuming office, and having consented to some treaty with Lord Bute, he had an interview with the King, by his Majesty's command, in which his advice for the formation of an administration, of which he was to be the head, was tendered by him, and received by the King with unequivocal marks of approbation. This interview was followed by another a few days afterwards, in which Mr. Pitt found that the secret influence which he had often before experienced had been exerted, and that whatever might at first have induced the King to request his advice, he had since determined not to adopt it. The causes by which this change of intention had been effected remain as deeply secret as many other state intrigues; but the King's behaviour on the occasion induced Mr. Pitt to say, that his Majesty was the greatest courtier of his court.

The parliamentary proceedings of 1763 were rendered memorable by the debates on the question of privilege raised by Mr. Wilkes's publication of a celebrated number of the North Briton. Mr. Pitt on this occasion made an admirable speech, in which he condemned in terms of the bitterest censure and scorn the scandalous libels of Wilkes, which he called illiberal, unmanly, and detestable; but at the same time he insisted that, while the courts of justice possessed the power to punish such an offender, the House sacrificed its own honour and safety, and the interests of

the people, by undertaking to pronounce a sentence upon him. In the ensuing session, he supported with great ability the motion for declaring general warrants illegal. Although these efforts had no more fortunate results than commonly attend the labours of the opposition against such a government as then existed, the fame which he had acquired in the country was by no means diminished by his want of success. His name was constantly referred to as a patriot whose ability and virtue all men recognized. Flattering marks of the estimation in which he was held, even by persons who knew him only as a public man, were frequently bestowed upon him, the most remarkable of which was, a bequest made to him by Sir William Pynsent, of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire, of an estate of nearly £3000 per annum.

In 1765 the utter inefficiency of the existing ministry was so sensibly felt that Lord Bute, whose influence with the Monarch was at this time paramount, prevailed upon him to authorise overtures being made by the Duke of Cumberland, first to Lord Temple, and afterwards to Mr. Pitt, for their joining the administration. A stipulation was however proposed by the Duke, that the Earl of Northumberland should be at the head of the Treasury, to which Mr. Pitt not agreeing, the negociation broke off. In the same year the King himself attempted that which his uncle had failed to effect, but with no better success; and at length a new ministry was formed, of which the Duke of Newcastle and the Marquis of Rockingham were the chiefs.

The ensuing Parliament introduced a subject of deep moment, and fraught with consequences to which it is impossible now to look back without sincere regret. The quarrel between England and America had commenced, which afterwards terminated so disastrously. Mr. Pitt exerted himself strenuously, but unsuccessfully, to lay down the principles upon which England had a right to exercise authority over her flourishing colony, and the limits by which that authority ought to be circumscribed.

In 1766 it became apparent that Lord Rockingham was unable to carry on the administration, and through Lord Northington

then Lord Chancellor, Mr. Pitt was applied to, and, after some negociation, received full powers to form an administration. His conduct upon this occasion displayed less sagacity than almost any event of his public life. The first step which he made was one of ill omen, for he quarrelled with his early and fast friend Lord Temple, who thought he was disposed to arrogate to himself a greater share of authority than he had a right to possess. Some of his appointments were bestowed upon men who were unqualified by their talents, and of whose fidelity and co-operation he had no reason to be assured; while many of his friends, and many more whom he might have made his friends, were chagrined and disgusted by the unconciliating and even haughty manner in which he gave or offered them places. Having chosen for himself the office of Privy Seal, he was created a peer in July, 1766, by the title of Viscount Pitt, of Burton Pynsent, in the county of Somerset, and Earl of Chatham, in Kent. His administration was marked by no portion of that success which had made his former possession of power advantageous to the country and glorious to himself. The increasing infirmities which had grown upon him with years incapacitated him for very active exertions; while the conviction that he could neither rely with certainty on the approbation of the Monarch, nor on the support of his colleagues, disinclined him from making the efforts of which he was still capable. The determination which had been evinced to adopt a course towards America the very reverse of that he had counselled, soon left him no choice but to quit an office which he could no longer hold with comfort or credit to himself; and on the appointment of Lord Hillsborough, in the latter part of 1768, to the post of Secretary of State for the Colonies, he sent the privy seal to the King by Lord Camden.

The opening of Parliament in 1770 found him once more in the list of the opposition; and here a great portion of that energy which had marked his earlier efforts seemed again to raise him above the effects of the old age which had come upon him, and the constant illness which made his years doubly burthensome.

He opposed the right of the House of Commons to expel Mr. Wilkes after his re-election with great power, and with eloquence which would have graced a better cause. From this period until 1774 he appeared but little in Parliament; the quarrel with America had then assumed a more serious aspect, and he again raised his warning voice in the hope of preventing the disasters which he saw must ensue if some conciliatory measures were not adopted. His advice was unheeded; and a bill which he submitted to the House in the following year for quieting the troubles in America was at once rejected. Not discouraged by their ill-success, he continued his exertions upon this subject, and when, in 1777, the Duke of Grafton resigned his office of Lord Privy Seal, because he could not conscientiously support the measures in contemplation against that colony, Lord Chatham moved an address to the King for putting a stop to hostilities. He pointed out to the government that France and Spain were watching to take advantage of the errors committed by the English government. His fears were treated as visionary and groundless; but soon after his motion was negatived, the justice of his views was manifested by the treaty which the court of Versailles entered into with the revolted colonies.

To this subject every subsequent effort of his life was directed, and it was ended in the support of that cause in which he believed his country's welfare was most deeply concerned. Worn out by bodily pain and mental anxiety, he appeared on the 7th of April, 1778, in the House of Lords, when a motion was made by the Duke of Richmond for an address on the state of the nation, in which the necessity of admitting the independence of America was suggested. Although he had counselled with sincerity and indefatigable perseverance the adoption of such measures as were just on the part of this country towards the colony, the idea of yielding up the sovereignty of America was too painful and humiliating to be endured by him whose best energies had been spent in the endeavour to uphold the glory of the nation and to defeat her enemies. He conjured the house to do any thing rather than

encounter the disgrace of the measure proposed by the address, and at least to make one becoming effort, so that if they should fall, they would fall like men. His suffering here compelled him to sit down; and Lord Temple, with whom he had then for some years been reconciled, reminded him that he had not submitted to the House that plan of pacification which they had discussed in conversation. He replied that he would do it by and by. At a later period of the evening he attempted to rise again, but after two or three ineffectual efforts to stand, he fainted and fell down on his seat. The hand of death was upon him. The House was cleared, medical assistance procured, and after a short time he was conveyed to his seat at Hayes, where he lingered until the 11th of May following, when he expired.

Lord Chatham was married in 1754 to Hesther, only daughter of Richard Grenville, Esquire, and sister to Lord Temple, who has been before mentioned. At his death he left three sons, John, who succeeded him; William, who with better fortune achieved a reputation not less glorious than his father's; and Charles, who died unmarried at Barbadoes, in 1780. His Lordship left also two daughters, of whom Lady Hesther was married, in 1774, to Earl Stanhope; and Lady Harriot, who in 1785 married the Hon. Edward James Eliot, eldest son of the first Lord Eliot.

His death having extinguished all party feeling, both Houses of Parliament testified in the warmest terms the respect they bore to his unstained virtues and rare talents. A public funeral, and a monument in Westminster Abbey, were decreed to him; and a grant of an annuity of £4000 to his eldest son and his heirs-male, Earls of Chatham, with the sum of £20,000 for the payment of his debts, were unanimously voted by Parliament, and sanctioned by the King.

His reputation as a statesman will ever rank him among the greatest men in whom England glories. The principles of the politics which he advocated may be concisely stated. An ardent lover of freedom, he vindicated on all occasions the liberty of the subject, and the free institutions of the country; and although he

coveted power, and spent his life in honest endeavours to attain it, his labours were neither for the purpose of enriching himself nor his friends, but for the advancement of the honour and prosperity of the nation, and for the humiliation and destruction of its foes. Nature, who had bestowed upon him that fluent eloquence which qualified him better than any of his contemporaries for the station he filled, had gifted him with a temperament that added all the force of true feeling and lofty passion to the expression of his opinions, and commanded the respect and attention of all who heard him. His features were of a noble and highly intellectual character, and his eagle eye gave irresistible power and animation to them. His voice, powerful, and of a commanding tone at all times, is said to have assumed an almost terrific sound when he uttered those torrents of indignant censure, or withering sarcasm, which the conduct of his antagonists sometimes provoked. In private life he was gentle and amiable; punctual in the discharge of all social offices; but strict only to himself, he was indulgent and considerate to others. In the fulfilment of his public duties, his application was intensely laborious, and his probity without the slightest blemish or imputation; but these estimable qualities were accompanied by a haughtiness of manner, an impatience of contradiction, and a love of domination, which, although they could not deprive him of the admiration due to his character and conduct, prevented him from gaining as many friends as his virtues and his station would otherwise have surrounded him with. The only excuse that can be offered for the faults which it was his lot to bear is expressed in the estimate given of him by Frederic of Prussia, one of the most sharp-sighted observers of the characters of men in his own times. Speaking of Lord Chatham, the Monarch says. "Il avait l'âme élevée, et l'esprit capable de grands projets. Doué d'une fermeté inflexible, il ne renonçait pas à ses opinions, parce qu'il les croyait avantageuses à sa patrie, qui était son idole."

Engraved by W. Holl.

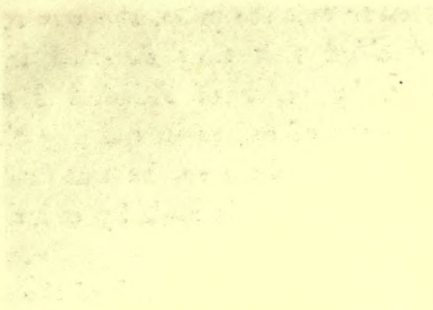
ADMIRAL LORD HAWKE.

OB. 1781.

FROM THE ORIGINAL BY COTES, IN

THE NAVAL GALLERY AT GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

London, Published Dec.r 1.1836, by Hurding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.



EDWARD, LORD HAWKE.

This able and intrepid commander was the only son of Edward Hawke, Esq. a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and of Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel Bladen, Esq. and widow of Colonel Ruthven. He was born in 1705 ; entered the Navy at an early age ; and passed, by regular but not rapid gradations, to the rank of captain in the year 1734, when he commanded his Majesty's ship the Flamborough. Although constantly employed, he found no opportunity of distinguishing himself until the memorable engagement in which Admirals Matthews, Lestoek, and Rowley, commanded the British force against the combined fleets of France and Spain off Toulon. The personal animosity of the commanders, and the want of co-operation which it occasioned, thwarted the result which might have been reasonably expected from the battle. In the disgrace which was that day brought upon the fame of England Captain Hawke had no share. The Captain of El Poder, a Spanish sixty-gun ship of the line, had gallantly engaged the Princesa and Somerset, which, though each of superior force, were compelled to quit the line. Captain Hawke, who then commanded the Berwick, of seventy-four guns, observing their danger, broke the line, bore down upon their assailants, and, after a sharp conflict, the Poder was compelled to strike, and Captain Hawke sent a Lieutenant and twenty-three men to take possession of her. The French

fleet having afterwards tacked upon her, and the lieutenant being unable to prevail upon his men to quit the prize, she was retaken; but was found to be so disabled that they deserted her, and she was burnt the next day, by order of Admiral Matthews. Hawke was tried for disobedience of orders in quitting the line, and it being indisputable that he had done so, he was broke, but was immediately afterwards restored to his rank by order of His Majesty.

In July 1747, he was appointed Rear-Admiral of the White, and in the beginning of the following August sailed from Plymouth, with a squadron consisting of fourteen ships of the line, for the purpose of intercepting a fleet of French merchantmen, bound for the West Indies. After cruising for some time on the coast of Britany he fell in with the object of his vigilance, which was under the convoy of nine ships of the line, and several frigates commanded by M. De L'Entendiere. On the 14th of October, soon after day-light, the two squadrons came in sight of each other. Admiral Hawke immediately made signals for forming the line of battle a-head; but perceiving that time was lost in executing this order, and that the merchant ships were crowding away with all the sail they could set, while the ships of war were endeavouring to protect their escape by forming in line astern of them, he made a signal for the whole squadron to chase, and when, within a proper distance, to engage. At eleven o'clock the hostile fleets encountered, and the battle lasted till night, when all the French ships, with the exception of L'Intrepide and Le Tonnant, had struck to the English. The Admiral commanded the Devonshire of sixty-six guns, in which he had his full share of the hottest part of the engagement, and terminated it by compelling the Terrible of seventy-four guns to strike. The fight was maintained with great courage on the part of the enemy, and, in the words of the Admiral's despatches, "as their ships were large they took a great deal of drubbing, and lost all their masts, excepting two who had their foremasts left." Taking advantage of the wind and the darkness, Le Tonnant and L'Intrepide got

away into Brest harbour. The disposition which the French Admiral had made before the engagement commenced had ensured the safe retreat of the merchantmen, under the guard of a line-of-battle ship and some large frigates. Immediately after the action Admiral Hawke dispatched a sloop to Commodore Pocock, whose squadron was stationed at the Leeward Islands, with intelligence of the fleet that had escaped him, in consequence of which the Commodore looked out for them with so much success, that several fell into his hands. Having put his prizes into sailing condition, Admiral Hawke returned on the 31st of October to Portsmouth with six of the enemy's ships of the line, when his courage and skill were rewarded by his being created one of the Knights Companions of the Bath.

In January 1748, he sailed with a squadron of nine ships for the Bay of Biscay, but the intervention of the peace prevented him from undertaking any operation of note. While in this employment he was raised to the rank of Vice Admiral of the Blue, and was elected an Elder brother of the Trinity House. From this period until 1756, he was actively employed in various services connected with his profession, and in June in the same year, after the disastrous affair at Minorca, he was sent to supersede Admiral Byng in the command of the Mediterranean squadron. His force being augmented by five sail of the line from England, he hastened to Minorca, where he had the mortification to see the French colours flying on the fort, the capitulation having been executed shortly before his arrival, and M. de la Galissoniere having retired from those seas. Although he was thus disappointed of the opportunity he sought of wiping off the disgrace which the British Navy had sustained, he at least maintained the empire of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, by annoying the commerce of the enemy, and blocking up their squadron in the harbour of Toulon. He acted with great spirit during this cruise in demanding the release of Fortunatus Wright, the Captain of an English privateer, and indemnity for his detention from the officers of the Austrian Government at Leghorn. Wright was lying

in the harbour of Leghorn, with his little vessel, the St. George of Liverpool, carrying twelve guns and eighty men, when a French xebeque of sixteen guns, and three times the number of his crew, took up a station in front of the harbour for the purpose of intercepting the British commerce. Wright immediately attacked the French ship, and, after an obstinate conflict, in which the captain, lieutenant, and sixty of the crew of the French vessel were killed, beat it off, and returned to the harbour. Under the pretence that he had violated the neutrality of the port, the authorities at Leghorn put him in prison, and detained his vessel and men. Sir Edward Hawke, on learning this, sent two ships of war to insist on his immediate release. Hawke's firmness and decision were so well known that the persons in office there, thought proper, without waiting for orders from Vienna, to comply with this demand, and Wright, who had established a high reputation for bravery on some previous occasions, was again restored to the possession of his vessel. Having scoured the Mediterranean and harassed the enemy's trade there, Sir Edward Hawke returned with the homeward bound fleet to Gibraltar, and at the latter end of the year, leaving such part of his squadron as was necessary to protect the Mediterranean trade against the French privateers, sailed for England.

In the year 1757, an expedition against the French coast was planned for the purpose of effecting such a diversion as might be favourable to the drooping cause of the allies in Germany. Great expectations were entertained of the success of this attack. A powerful fleet was equipped, and a large body of troops collected to accompany it. The command of the naval armament was given to Sir Edward Hawke, and that of the land force to Sir John Mordaunt. On the 23d of September the fleet anchored off the river Charente, and took the Isle of Aix. Sir Edward Hawke then proposed to attack Rochefort, and suggested that by laying a sixty gun ship against the fort of Fouras, the landing of the troops might be safely effected. Sir John Mordaunt could not however be prevailed on to concur in this proceeding. A

council of war was held, in which the opinion of the Admiral was overruled, and after some days had been wasted in reconnoitring the coast, the expedition returned to England, to the disappointment of the nation, not less than of the Admiral, whose conduct in the whole of the affair was admitted by the Legislature to be free from the shadow of blame, though the ignorant populace, ever ready to condemn an unsuccessful officer, grossly insulted him on his landing at Portsmouth when he returned from the expedition.

In the month of April in the following year, he sailed with a squadron of seven ships of the line, and three frigates, into the Basque roads, where he discovered a French fleet, consisting of five ships of the line, with six frigates and forty transports, having on board three thousand troops intended for the North American Colonies. At the approach of the English fleet the French ships began to slip their cables, some stood out to sea, and others sought safety in the shallow waters of the coast, while the approach of night made any effectual pursuit impracticable. In the morning the enemy's ships were discovered in the Charente, many of them aground, and all beyond the reach of the English squadron. Sir Edward Hawke sent two of his vessels, the Intrepid and the Medway, into the channel, with orders to sound a-head, but it was found the water was too shallow to admit of their proceeding. In the mean time boats and launches had come out from Rochefort to tow the French vessels through the soft mud, as soon as they should be water borne by the rising tide, which was afterwards effected. Although he was thus disappointed of his intended capture, he completely frustrated the enemy's expedition, and, having destroyed the fortifications on Isle Madame, he returned to England, and in the following summer sailed as second in command, under Lord Anson, of a fleet destined for an attack on the French coast, but was seized with so violent a fever that he was compelled, for a time, to quit active service.

After the defeat of the French at Minden the project of an invasion of the Irish coast was resumed by the French government

with great earnestness, and a large fleet of ships of war and transports was collected in the Ports of Brest and Rochefort, under the command of M. de Conflans. To Sir Edward Hawke was committed the important duty of watching the movements of the enemy, and preventing their design. On the 18th of May 1759, he sailed from Portsmouth, and, taking up his station off Brest harbour, kept the enemy completely blocked up till the month of November, while a small squadron, under the command of Captain Duff, cruising along the whole line of coast from Britany to Poicton, harassed their trade, and captured, in the very teeth of the enemy, such of their vessels as ventured out. In November Sir Edward Hawke and his force were driven from the French coast by stress of weather. M. de Conflans immediately determined to avail himself of the opportunity which the absence of the hostile fleet afforded for sailing, and proposed to attack Captain Duff's small squadron, then in Quiberon bay, before it could receive any succour from England. Sir Edward Hawke's watchful activity however prevented the success of this design. As soon as the French fleet sailed he was in pursuit of them, and steering direct for Quiberon, he came up with them on the 20th of November off the south end of Belleisle, as they were chasing Captain Duff's force. The occasion for which he had long waited had now presented itself, and he determined to bring the enemy to an engagement. The difficulties in the way of his design were numerous and formidable. The weather was stormy, the days short, and he was on a lee shore, the navigation of which, at all times dangerous, was unknown to him, while the enemy were familiar with every shoal and rock, and M. de Conflans appeared as much bent on avoiding a battle as Sir Edward Hawke was desirous of coming to action. The French fleet kept in a body, and at the same time made as much sail as possible; the intention of their commander being evidently to draw the English ships into the perilous shallows of the coast. The English squadron nevertheless pursued with the utmost eagerness. At half-past two o'clock in the afternoon the signal for engagement was given,

each of the foremost of the English ships as they advanced poured a broadside into the sternmost of the enemy, and bore down upon their van, leaving the rear to those who came after. Sir Edward Hawke, in the Royal George, reserved his fire in passing through the enemy's rear, and ordered his master to bring him alongside Le Soleil Royal, a vessel of eighty guns, and twelve hundred men, which M. de Conflans commanded. The master represented the risque of running on a shoal in attempting this. "You have done your duty in pointing out the danger," replied Sir Edward, "now you are to comply with orders, and lay me alongside the Soleil Royal." The measure was effected, and the battle became general. Le Thesée, a ship of the line, running between the two admirals, received the fire that was intended for Le Soleil Royal, but in returning the first broadside foundered. The fight raged until the night made it impossible to continue the firing with any further effect; but before this two of the French ships were sunk and two others had struck. During the night several of the others escaped while the English remained at anchor off the Isle Dumet, in very dangerous riding. Signals of distress were heard throughout the night, but the state of the weather, which was very stormy, their ignorance of the coast, and the uncertainty whether the signals were made by friends or enemies, prevented any effectual relief being rendered by the English commander. At day break the French admiral found himself at anchor in the midst of the English fleet, when he immediately cut his cable and drove the Soleil Royal ashore to the westward of Crozic. The Essex was ordered, as soon as the enemy was discovered, to pursue, in attempting which she grounded on a sand bank, where the Resolution had already encountered the same accident. The men and stores were saved; but it being impossible to recover the ships they were burnt. The French admiral escaped from his ship, which was destroyed by his orders, and Le Heros, which was also stranded, shared the same fate from the English boats. Le Juste, another of the enemy's ships, went down at the mouth of the Loire.

The other French vessels having lightened themselves by throwing their cannon and stores overboard, evaded pursuit by entering the Vilaine, where the English could not follow them. The loss on the side of the English was not very considerable, while, by the result of the bold enterprise on which the admiral had ventured, the naval power of France was crippled; the projected invasion frustrated; and the country completely relieved from the suspense and alarm in which it had long been kept by the threats of the enemy.

During the remainder of the winter Sir Edward Hawke continued cruising off the coast of Britany, and by blockading the ports, prevented the possibility of the scattered enemy reuniting their naval forces. In January 1760, he was recalled from the dangerous service in which he had been employed; was presented to the King, who thanked him in the most marked manner for his exertions in the cause of the country; and rewarded him with a pension of £2000. per annum, for his own life and those of his two sons. On the twenty-eighth of the same month the Speaker of the House of Commons, in pursuance of a resolution to that effect, expressed the thanks of Parliament to the admiral for the signal victory he had obtained over the French fleet, and, in a highly complimentary speech, bore testimony to the bravery and conduct by which that victory had been achieved, and to the importance with which its results were regarded by the nation.

In the following August he sailed to the Bay of Biscay to relieve Admiral Boscawen, and directed the successful attack of Lord Howe on the fort of Dumet. On the 5th of November, 1765, he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral of Great Britain, and was appointed first Lord of the Admiralty on the 2d of December following, which office he retained until January 1771, when he resigned it. He was created by letters patent, dated the 20th of May, 1766, a Peer of great Britain, by the style and title of Baron Hawke of Towton in the County of York. By his marriage with Catherine, daughter and sole heiress of Walter

Brooke, Esq. of Burton Hall, Yorkshire, and coheiress of William Hammond, Esq. of Scarthingwell Hall in the same County, he had three sons and one daughter. His Lordship died at his seat at Sunbury, in Middlesex, on the 14th of October, 1781, and was succeeded in his title by Martin Bladen, his eldest son. His reputation for skill and courage in the arduous profession to which his life was devoted entitle him to be placed in the first rank of British warriors, and his greatest success, perhaps his greatest merit, is to be ascribed to the accurate judgment and intrepidity which induced him not only to disregard danger, but to break through, when the occasion required, those formal rules of attack, which had been before considered indispensable, and the observance of which had occasioned the failure of so many former leaders.

With what devotion Hawke loved his country, and how warmly he regarded the welfare of a brother officer, says the acute and accurate Locker in his Memoirs, lately published, of the "Naval Gallery of Greenwich Hospital," may be seen in the following letter written during the last year of his life to his old friend, Admiral (afterwards Sir Francis) Geary, Commander-in-chief at Spithead.

"My dear Sir,

"I find by the Papers you are getting ready for sea with all the dispatch that is possible, and that you will sail the instant that it is in your power,—and, though I could wish this should get into your hands first, yet the times are so pressing, from many unfortunate events, that I think the sooner you get to my old station off Brest the better will it be for my Country. When you are there, watch those fellows as closely as a cat watches a mouse, and if once you can have the good fortune to get up with them, *make much of them*,—and don't part with them easily.—Forgive my being so free—I love you—we have served long together, and I have your interest and happiness sincerely at heart. My dear friend, may God Almighty bless you, and may that all powerful

hand guide and protect you in the day of battle; and that you may return home with honour and glory to your country and family, is the sincere and faithful wish of him who is most truly,

" My dear Sir,

" Your most obedient humble Servant,

" HAWKE."

Engraved by W.T.Mote.

CHARLES WENTWORTH, MARQUIS OF ROCKINGHAM.

OB. 1782.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE THE EARL OF FITZWILLIAM.

London, Published Dec^r 1. 1836. by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

CHARLES WATSON WENTWORTH,

SECOND MARQUIS OF ROCKINGHAM.

The early years of the reign of his late Majesty, George the Third, produced a new feature in party tactics. The systematic opposition in Parliament, which commenced with the revolution, to all measures tending to encroach upon the constitutional government then established, and which has ever since subsisted in uninterrupted succession, has been the main cause of those changes which our later history records in the several ministries by which the public affairs have been conducted. In the earlier periods of that history, when the partisans of opposition had displaced a set of public servants, they cautiously chose from their own ranks those who were best qualified to fill the vacant offices, but, above all, they were scrupulously nice, as indeed might be expected, in the election of the Lord Treasurer, otherwise Prime Minister, who was mainly to direct, as the latter denomination indeed implied, the functions of his subordinates, and all the higher faculties of the state. Thus were Godolphin, Harley, Walpole, and Pelham, successively placed at the helm of public affairs, and their administrations embrace the whole period from the death of William to that of George the Second. When however that party which had supported the House of Stuart, transferred their allegiance to the House of Brunswick without changing their political principles, their opponents were forced to consider the advantages which might be derived from territorial influence, and powerful alliances, and to deem them sufficient qualifications

for the high office which had before been bestowed in consideration chiefly of the personal ability of the individuals by whom it was successively filled. From this period, and in consequence of the change which has been referred to, we find persons selected for the post of Prime Ministers, who in fact had little to recommend them to their offices but good intentions, and unblemished characters, and of that class of statesmen was the nobleman who will be the subject of this consequently uninteresting memoir.

He was the only son of Thomas Watson Wentworth, who had been created Marquis of Rockingham in 1746, by Mary, fourth daughter of Daniel Finch, sixth Earl of Winchelsea, and was born on the thirteenth of May, 1730, to the inheritance of a very great revenue, for the estates of the Earls of Strafford, of the first creation, with their surname of Wentworth, had passed to his paternal grandfather, Thomas Watson, who had already a splendid patrimony on the death of William the second Earl. He succeeded to those joint possessions, and to vast personal property, together with abundance of dignities, upon the death of his father, on the fourteenth of December, 1750. On the ninth of July, 1751, he was constituted Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the north and west ridings of Yorkshire, in which his principal estates were situated, and was soon after appointed a lord of the bedchamber, and these were the only offices ever held by him till that of first minister was conferred upon him. One of the earliest acts however of his Majesty, George the Third, was to invest him with the Order of the Garter, and he was installed on the fourth of May, 1760.

The first occasion which presents him to our notice, as connected with any political concern, took place in the spring of 1763, when those members of each house of Parliament who had been always joined in a steady but hitherto ineffectual opposition to the administration of the Earl of Bute, resolved, and pledged themselves to each other, to devote severally the whole of their influence and ingenuity to the increase of their numbers, and to the organization of a plan of union, the strictness of which was

perhaps new in the history of Parliament. No pains were spared, no means, however minute or remote, were neglected. In the accomplishment of their important object they sought particularly to engage the co-operation of such persons as were best adapted by their political principles to assist, and by their rank and influence to lend strength to, the cause in which they had embarked; and of those persons, the first and most important who joined them was the Marquis of Rockingham.

He entered into their views with a zeal and inflexibility which could have resulted only from conviction, founded on deep reflection and reasoning, and which were aided by a firmness of purpose of the utmost value in public affairs. He had distinctly pledged himself to the support of the party, and thought himself bound, as a man of nice honour, which he certainly was, to obey and maintain it as he did with scrupulous fidelity and exactness. When the incessant vigilance of the party of which he had become a member at length forced Lord Bute into an unexpected resignation, they had hoped to establish a completely whig Cabinet, but a motley ministry, headed by Mr. George Grenville, succeeded, and presently lost the confidence both of the Crown and the people. It subsisted by the aid of partial alterations, for somewhat more than two years, and then sank under the weight of its own feebleness and want of union, aggravated, if not produced, by the impracticability of Mr. Pitt, whose views of public policy differing from those even of his own political friends, impeded the effect of their common exertions for the common good. The same unfortunate misunderstanding now clogged the appointment of a new administration with numerous difficulties. He was entreated even by the King himself to assume the reins of government, and an ample discretion was offered to him in the choice of his colleagues, but, believing that a disposition existed on the part of the Crown to withhold from him that entire and cordial confidence, without which he could not usefully or honourably conduct the affairs of the government, he first hesitated, and finally refused the nominally eminent station to which he had

been invited. The King's uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, whose worth and talents justly merited the public opinion which they had gained, now took upon himself the task of forming a ministry, at the head of which, in the hope of conciliating the whigs, and Mr. Pitt, their leader, the Marquis of Rockingham was placed on the tenth of July, 1765.

Mr. Pitt however took the earliest opportunity of testifying his disapprobation, for on the opening of the first session after their appointment he opposed the usual address to the Throne, declaring that he should deny his confidence to the new ministers. A more adverse event presently followed. The Duke of Cumberland, who had devoted himself to their support, was taken off by a sudden death within a few weeks after they had entered on their offices. Originally feeble, and further weakened by these untoward events, the dawn of the quarrel with America, which had commenced a little before they were appointed, filled them with dismay. Their policy, although the result of good intentions, was too short-sighted to effect the objects they proposed. They passed some measures by which the domestic and foreign commerce were improved, the most important of which was the treaty with Russia. But although the integrity of their designs was not questioned, the violence of party feeling which then raged prevented them from gaining the credit and stability necessary to their continuance in office. After some efforts to court support by the repeal of the stamp act, of the excise on cider, and by a declaration of the illegality of general warrants, their inefficiency became matter of public observation, and they were finally overset by a stratagem of one of their own body, and he a man of no commanding reputation or influence, either personal or political, the Chancellor Northington.

During this very brief administration, for it barely lasted twelve months, the Premier seems not to have played a very important part, and having contributed to its character little more than a creditable name, was dismissed without either praise or censure, and passed into retirement without exciting much

triumph in his adversaries, or regret in his friends. The addresses which were presented to him on the occasion, were couched but in general terms, and by no means lavish in acknowledging his talents. He had, it is true, one eulogist, in himself a host, whose warmth of heart, and powers of expression, stimulated too as they were by private gratitude, prompted him to bear an eloquent testimony to the qualities and merits of his friend and patron.—The great Edmund Burke, who commenced his splendid career in the station of private secretary to Lord Rockingham, thus descants on the talents and conduct of his noble patron in that celebrated speech of the nineteenth of April, 1774, on American taxation, in which he portrays the characters of the most eminent statesmen of the time.

"In the year 1765," said Mr. Burke, "being in a very private station, far enough from any line of business, and not having the honour of a seat in this House, it was my fortune, by the intervention of a common friend, to become connected with a very noble person, and at the head of the treasury department. It was indeed in a situation of little rank and no consequence, suitable to the mediocrity of talents and pretensions, but a situation near enough to enable me to see, as well as others, what was going on; and I did see in that noble person such sound principles, such an enlargement of mind, such clear and sagacious sense, and such unshaken fortitude, as have bound me, as well as others much better than me, by an inviolable attachment to him from that time forward." After speaking at large of several of the measures of government, in which however the Marquis had but a common concern with the rest of the ministers, he returns to Lord Rockingham individually, and, referring to a current rumour of the time that he had been bullied by Mr. Pitt into the repeal of the stamp act, thus concludes—"Sir, whether the noble Lord is of a complexion to be bullied by Lord Chatham, or by any man, I submit to those who know him. I confess, when I look back to that time, I consider him as placed in one of the most trying situations in which perhaps any man ever stood. There were in both

Houses new and menacing appearances, that might very naturally drive any other than a most resolute minister from his measure, or from his station. The household troops openly revolted. The allies of ministry, those I mean who supported some of their measures but refused responsibility for any, endeavoured to undermine their credit, and to take ground that must be fatal to the very cause which they would be thought to countenance. The question of the repeal was brought on by ministry, in the committee of this House, in the very instant when it was known that more than one Court negotiation was carrying on with the heads of the opposition. Every thing, upon every side, was full of traps and mines; earth below shook; heaven above menaced: all the elements of ministerial safety were dissolved. It was in the midst of this chaos of plots and counterplots; it was in the midst of this complicated warfare against public opposition and private treachery; that the firmness of that noble person was put to the proof. He never stirred from his ground, no, not an inch: he remained fixed and determined, in principle, in measure, and in conduct: he practised no managements; he secured no retreat; he sought no apology."

Thus we learn from Mr. Burke, whom even the partiality of friendship could not induce to violate truth, that the Marquis of Rockingham possessed, and exerted in times of difficulty and danger, courage and ability, and a rare degree of fortitude; qualities, especially the latter, unquestionably highly necessary to the character of a minister of state, but which, it must be admitted, require a variety of adjuncts to raise that character to fame, or to invest it with much more than ordinary respectability. He added to them in private life however all the dispositions which sweeten and adorn it, and the practice of all the virtues by which it is dignified.

The biographer of James, late Earl of Charlemont, tells us that "the regard and veneration of that nobleman for Lord Rockingham were almost unlimited." "He was charmed," says Mr. Hardy, "with the mild, yet firm integrity, of his mind, and the justness of his political principles, which he considered as founded in the

best school of whiggism, that is such as Somers, and Townshend, and Walpole, and the Cavendishes, professed and adhered to at a time when the constitution was really in danger." Mr. Hardy has also preserved a letter from Lord Rockingham to Lord Charlemont, which we will insert here as a specimen of the Marquis's epistolary composition, as well as of his mode of expressing himself on public affairs.

"DEAR LORD CHARLEMONT,

"The state of my health continues but moderate. The influenza attacking me, while I was only recovering from old complaints, rendered me little capable of much active labour, and yet sometimes I contrive to get through a good deal of business, though in some matters I must run in arrear. I thank your Lordship for your last kind and cordial letter. I rejoice that your Lordship is pleased and satisfied with our conduct as ministers, and be assured, my dear Lord, that those persons whom formerly you honoured with your friendship, as individuals (because you approved their principles), will continue to act towards Ireland, and towards promoting the general good of the empire, with the same zeal, and liberal ideas, which have hitherto characterised their conduct. There are matters which may want adjustment in the new state in which England and Ireland now stand. I heartily wish that no time was lost on either side in accelerating the adjustment of any such matters which might hereafter cause any disputes or misunderstandings, and this happy moment of friendship, and cordiality, and confidence, between the countries, was made use of, to form and arrange plans of mutual and reciprocal support. Nothing was ever better timed than the kind offer made by Ireland of furnishing 20,000 men for the service of the fleet. Lord Keppel has sent one of the best and most alert men in the navy, to superintend and to receive the men which the zeal of Ireland will furnish. Captain Mac Bride has no occasion for my panegyric, but in writing to a friend like your Lordship, it is natural for me to say something in behalf of one I

have a great regard for, and who probably, in this business, may have frequent intercourse with your Lordship. Lord Keppel assures me that if he had a supply of seamen, he could add in three weeks not less than fourteen ships of the line to the fleet which Lord Howe will command. It will indeed at present be a very scanty fleet with which Lord Howe will proceed to sea. I verily believe France and Spain are alert: their fleet may be more than double the number of ours; but could we be enabled to send the ten or fourteen additional ships along with, or soon to join, Lord Howe, I should have the utmost reliance that the ability and conduct of Lord Howe would afford us the most pleasing prospect of success, even though the enemy's fleet might still be superior to ours in actual number of line-of-battle ships. Nothing but the friendly efforts of Ireland can rapidly furnish men for these ships.

"I take the opportunity of writing to your Lordship by the messenger whom I send to the Duke of Portland, to convey to his Grace, in a safe and expeditious manner, his Majesty's gracious confirmation and approbation of the resolution of the House of Commons of Ireland, in granting £50,000 to be laid out in the purchase of lands for Mr. Grattan. As soon as I received at the treasury the communication from the Duke of Portland, I directed the warrant to be prepared, and took the earliest opportunity of laying it before his Majesty for his signature. The proceedings in Ireland are upon a large and liberal scale, and though economy may be a necessary virtue in States, yet, in rewarding great public merit, narrow ideas on that subject are not good policy.—I have many compliments to make to your Lordship from Lady Rockingham. She is happy that so much good humour is likely to subsist between England and Ireland, and the more so, as she thinks that national and private friendship, going hand in hand, must be pleasing to your Lordship as well as to myself.

"I have the honour to be,

"My dear Lord, &c. &c.

"ROCKINGHAM."

"*Grosvenor-square,*
"*Monday, June* 17, 1782."

Lord Rockingham remained in retirement, overlooked and forgotten as much as a man of his splendid rank and fortune could be, for the long space of sixteen years. During this interval however, his conduct in his place in the House of Lords was consistent with the character and opinions he had always maintained, and proved that the principles for which he had contended, and which, as he believed, were essential to the dignity and welfare of the country, had undergone no change. At length the vigorous and unceasing efforts of Mr. Fox to overthrow the administration of Lord North having been crowned with success, the Marquis of Rockingham consented to be placed at the head of that which followed. The duration of the new administration was short; but it was longer than the existence of the nobleman under whose name it is referred to in history. He however lived to see the menacing dissensions which had so long prevailed in Ireland happily and rationally composed, the beginning of that reform in the representation in Parliament, and in the expenditure of the public finances which he had always strenuously advocated, and the ground laid for the cessation of the exhausting and unprofitable contest with America. His death, and the changes which ensued upon it, broke up the administration from whose first measures so much more might have been justly expected, and postponed the fulfilment of the hopes it had excited to a more fortunate period. The Marquis died, after a very short illness, at his house at Wimbledon, in Surrey, on the second of July, 1782, and was buried in York Minster.

This nobleman married Mary, daughter and heiress of Robert Bright of Badsworth in the county of York, but left no issue.

Engraved by H.T. Ryall.

AUGUSTUS, VISCOUNT KEPPEL.

OB. 1786.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

HIS GRACE, THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London Published Dec.r 1. 1836, by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

AUGUSTUS, VISCOUNT KEPPEL.

AUGUSTUS, VISCOUNT KEPPEL.

This distinguished naval commander was the second son of William Anne, second Earl of Albemarle. The first Earl, Arnold Joost Van Keppel, Lord of Voorst, was descended from an old and noble family of the province of Gueldres, an origin to which Mr. Burke seems to refer as the source of that pride which was one of Admiral Keppel's characteristics. "He was," says that discerning friend, "of the oldest and purest nobility that Europe can boast, among a people renowned above all others for love of their native land. Though it was never shown in insult to any human being, Lord Keppel was somewhat high: it was a wild stock of pride, on which the tenderest of all hearts had engrafted the milder virtues. On the arrival of the Prince of Orange in England, he was accompanied by the young Lord of Voorst, then one of his pages. On that Prince's accession to the throne, Van Keppel continued to be employed in his household, and was subsequently intrusted with more important employments at home and abroad. His fidelity recommended him to the favour of his royal master, who rewarded the attachment he had displayed to his person and his valour in the field, where he served in several campaigns, by conferring on him many lucrative and distinguished posts; and by whom he was created, in 1696, Baron Ashford in Kent, Viscount Bury, and Earl of Albemarle, a title derived originally from a town in Normandy, and which had been in the English nobility from the time of the Conquest. His only son, William Anne, the second Earl, was born, and lived, during the

greater part of life, in England. He served in various military employments—held the rank of Lieutenant-General at Dettingen, commanded the right wing of the English army at Culloden; after which he was appointed General and Commander-in-chief in Scotland, and, in 1748, was sent as Ambassador to the Court of France. He was elected one of the Knights of the Garter, and was successively appointed a Privy-Councillor and one of the Lords Justices during the King's absence in Germany. His Lordship died at Paris, in December, 1754, while in the discharge of his office as Ambassador. By his marriage with Lady Anne Lennox, daughter of the first Duke of Richmond of that name, he had eight sons and seven daughters; of whom the subject of this memoir was the second son, who was born in the year 1727.

Augustus Keppel entered the navy at an early age, and served with credit in Commodore Anson's expedition to the South Seas. At the taking of Paita, he narrowly escaped destruction, a part of the cap he wore having been struck off close to his head by a cannon-ball, which, however, passed without wounding him. In December, 1744, he was raised to the rank of Captain; and, although the course of the war offered him no opportunity for any remarkable display of valour, he was engaged in very active service, and, by some single engagements with privateers, in which he was remarkably successful, he gained the reputation of an able seaman and a brave officer.

In the year 1748, the piratical attacks of the Barbarous states on the African coast had become so daring, and were so dangerous to the Mediterranean trade, that it was found necessary, for the honour of the British flag, to curb their power. Mr. Keppel sailed as Commodore of a small squadron, to demand satisfaction for some past injuries which had been committed by the Algerine cruisers, and to prevent the recurrence of similar offences. He was employed on this service, which was rendered somewhat difficult by the countenance afforded by the French government to the enemy, for rather more than three years; and terminated it at length by receiving the unqualified submission of the Dey of

Algiers and the states of Tripoli and Tunis, with whom he entered into treaties of peace and commerce.

In the beginning of the year 1755, on his elder brother attaining to the peerage, he succeeded him as member for Chichester; and in the next and several succeeding Parliaments was elected one of the representatives for the borough of Windsor.

In the war that ensued with France, Mr. Keppel was employed; but it was not until after the failure of an expedition which had been directed against the Island of Goree, in the early part of the year 1758, that any notable occasion offered in which he could distinguish himself. The attacks of the English force upon the French settlements on the coast of Africa had been so generally successful, that the miscarriage of that which had been directed against Goree was felt to be a disgrace, while the possession of that island by the enemy rendered the conquests of the British forces incomplete, and even insecure. A squadron, consisting of four ships of the line, several frigates, some smaller vessels, having on board about seven hundred soldiers, commanded by Colonel Worge, and two bomb ketches, was fitted out for the reduction of the island. The direction of the whole expedition was intrusted to Commodore Keppel. This armament sailed from Cork on the eleventh of December, 1758, and after a tempestuous passage of six weeks reached Goree, when the Commodore immediately commenced his dispositions for the attack. The French fortifications were of but indifferent strength, and the whole force of the commandant, M. de St. Jean, consisted only of three hundred regular troops, and about as many inhabitants of the island. The troops being disembarked, the engagement commenced by a heavy cannonading from the ships, which was returned with great spirit from the French batteries. The superiority of the English force was however so great, and their attack so vigorous, that the troops of the garrison became disconcerted, and quitted their quarters in spite of all the efforts and remonstrances of the commandant, who, having discharged his duty in the most gallant and honourable manner, was at length compelled to surrender at discretion. The

French colours were struck, the British standard hoisted in their stead upon the principal fort, and the island, with its stores and merchandize of considerable value, and some merchant ships, which happened to be lying at anchor in the road, were taken possession of, at no greater cost on the side of the English than the loss of one hundred men killed and wounded. The French prisoners were dispatched in three cartel ships to France, and Major-General Newton with a part of the troops was left in possession of Goree, while the Commodore sailed with the rest of his force to Senegal, which had been taken at an earlier period of the war. The garrison at the latter place having been reinforced by the remainder of the troops, and Colonel Worge having been appointed Governor there, the English fleet returned to Spithead on the twenty-third of January, 1759, diminished, however, by the loss of the Lichfield, ship of war, commanded by Captain Barton, and one of the bomb-vessels, which were wrecked off the coast of Barbary. The Commodore on his arrival in London received the thanks of His Majesty, George the Second, for the successful and rapid manner in which he had acquitted himself of this service.

In the fleet which was employed under Sir Edward Hawke to watch the French coast and to prevent the invasion that had been so loudly threatened and was so earnestly resolved upon by the enemy, Captain Keppel commanded the Torbay. At the fight off Belleisle, on the twentieth of November, 1759, he engaged and sunk the French ship Le Thésée, and bore a distinguished share in the triumph of that day. In the following February he received the appointment of Colonel of the Plymouth division of Marines. At the taking of Belleisle, in 1761, he was employed to effect the landing of the troops, and assisted in the reduction of the citadel. In the following year he sailed as Commodore of the fleet destined for the attack of Cuba, and discharged this duty with so much ability as to merit the most unqualified approbation of Sir George Pococke, who had the chief command of the expedition. After the taking of Cuba, he was raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue; in the year 1765, was chosen one of the Elder Brethren

of the Trinity House, and appointed a Groom of His Majesty's Bed-chamber. On the twentieth of July, in the same year, he became one of the Lords of the Admiralty, which post he held till the month of December in the following year. From this period until the year 1778 he was not employed on active service, but his former exertions were recompensed by several successive promotions, and in January of that year he attained the rank of Admiral of the Blue.

In the beginning of June, 1778, the command of a fleet of twenty ships of the line, destined for the service of protecting the English commerce and the coasts, and of watching the movements of the enemy, was offered to him by Lord Sandwich, then presiding at the Admiralty. His avowed political sentiments were in direct opposition to those of the existing ministry, but neither this circumstance, nor the desire for repose, which after forty years of active service in the cause of his country might have reasonably excused his engaging in fresh conflicts, could induce him to withdraw from the opportunity that was presented to him of again devoting his skill and valour to her defence; and on the thirteenth of June, with Sir Robert Harland and Sir Hugh Palliser, as second and third officers in command, he sailed upon this service. In the course of his cruise two French frigates, the Licorne and the Pallas, having wantonly provoked the English vessels, were taken; but as reprisals had not at this time been declared, the enemy's merchant shipping was not molested. Admiral Keppel, having learned that the French fleet lying in the harbour of Brest consisted of thirty-two sail of the line, and foreseeing that he should have to encounter it, returned to St. Helen's, and demanded such an augmentation of his force as might enable him to cope with that of the enemy. This demand was complied with, and in a fortnight the Admiral sailed again, with ten additional ships, of which one only, the Victory, carried ninety guns, the others being all third-rate vessels. The fleet was formed into three divisions, of which the Admiral assumed the command of the centre; the van was allotted to Sir Robert Harland, and the rear to Sir Hugh

Palliser. The French fleet, commanded by the Count d'Orvilliers, had left the harbour on the eighth of July, and was now cruizing off the coast of Brittany. On the twenty-third of the same month, the hostile armaments came in sight of each other, and the British admiral made signal for forming the line, which was not, however, effected before nightfall. On the following morning, it was discovered that the French fleet had gained the weather-gage, and appeared disposed to avoid a battle, which this advantage enabled them to do. The three following days were spent by the British fleet in endeavouring to chase so much to windward as would compel the enemy to engage, and on the twenty-seventh a sudden squall and fog concealed the forces from each other. On the weather clearing, the French fleet was discovered to leeward, and near the British van. Admiral Keppel immediately gave signal for forming the line, and the engagement began as the ships passed each other. Admiral Keppel's ship, the Victory, and the division which he commanded, were nearest to the enemy; Sir Robert Harland, who was to windward, was also ready for service; but Sir Hugh Palliser, with the rear division, was out of the line, and considerably to leeward. The position of the French fleet, and their movements, appeared to place the rear in great peril, and the possibility of its being cut off by the enemy excited the greatest anxiety in the commanders of the other two divisions. Admiral Keppel, under this impression, quitted the station he had taken up at the beginning of the engagement, and, leaving Sir Robert Harland to cover the rear, sailed with the centre division until he was opposite the enemy's van. In the meantime he made constant signals to Sir Hugh Palliser to join the line. These signals were however not obeyed until darkness prevented the continuation of the engagement. The French fleet was so ranged as to appear determined upon action, and the night was passed by the British force in eager anticipation of the morning which was to bring their enemy within their reach. Three lights on board the opposing fleet clearly marked out the position of the several divisions in which it had been ranged, when the approach

of night had shut them from the sight of the English seamen; but when the daylight dawned, it was discovered that the French admiral had stolen away, and that the lights which had been so carefully watched were on board three frigates, which, as soon as the moment arrived at which the deception was no longer necessary, made sail after their companions. Admiral Keppel,—mortified at the disappointment by which the enemy had eluded his very grasp, declined to pursue them, as well from the improbability of being able to overtake them, as from the danger to which his own ships would be exposed from a lee shore,—returned with his fleet to Plymouth; and the only advantage that was derived from the affair was, that the trading vessels from the East and West Indies, and from the Mediterranean, came to port in safety.

Although no small disappointment was felt at the result of this encounter of the two fleets, from which so much had been expected in England, it did not appear that blame was justly to be imputed in any quarter, and that accidents which could not have been foreseen or controlled had alone prevented the British navy from adding another triumph to the glorious list of its achievements. At a subsequent period, however, party-spirit so infused its venom into the transaction, as to render it extremely painful to the persons most intimately concerned, and harassing and discreditable to the nation. It was first insinuated, that the ministry had determined that the laurel of victory should not grace the brow of a Whig admiral, and that Sir Hugh Palliser's conduct was to be attributed to secret instructions he had received to that effect. The monstrous absurdity of such a notion was so apparent, that if the latter, a most gallant and deserving officer, had treated it with the scorn, which alone it merited, his reputation could not have suffered, nor could his feelings have been disturbed. Smarting, however, under the imputations contained in an anonymous letter which had appeared in an opposition newspaper, he wrote to Admiral Keppel, and required him to justify his (Sir Hugh Palliser's) conduct in the engagement. The Admiral had

already, in his dispatches, expressed himself generally satisfied with the conduct of the officers and men under his command; and although it appeared afterwards that he did consider Sir Hugh Palliser's conduct as the cause of his failure to bring the enemy to an engagement, he had attributed that conduct to accident or mistake, and entertained no notion that the commander of the rear division had acted culpably. Sir Hugh Palliser, however, insisted now upon such a statement in writing as would not only have exculpated him, but would have criminated the Admiral, who somewhat indignantly refused to comply with his request. His want of temper, and his sensitiveness to a contemptible accusation, then betrayed Sir Hugh Palliser into an imprudence of which the abettors of faction on either side took advantage. He published a letter in the newspapers, in which he bitterly and unjustly censured the conduct of the Admiral. This was retorted with equal acrimony, and probably with as little justice. The matter was taken up by the partisans of the ministry and of the opposition, between whom very angry discussions ensued; and at length Sir Hugh Palliser was goaded into the transmission of a letter to the Lords of the Admiralty, in December, 1778, containing a charge of misconduct and neglect of duty, on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth of July, against the Admiral, the principal points of which were, that he had formed his line negligently; that he had not properly provided for covering the rear division; that he had omitted to seize the opportunity which offered for renewing the battle in the afternoon; and that he had neglected to pursue the enemy's fleet on the following morning. A court-martial was immediately ordered to be held at Portsmouth on these charges; and Admiral Keppel was informed that his trial would take place on the seventh of January. On that day it commenced, and was continued, without intermission, during thirty-one days, when the Court pronounced this judgment:—"That having heard the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and having maturely and seriously considered the whole, the Court was of opinion that the charge was malicious and ill-founded; it having

appeared that the said Admiral, far from having, by misconduct and neglect of duty on the days therein alluded to, lost an opportunity of rendering essential service to the state, and thereby tarnished the honour of the British navy, behaved as became a judicious, brave, and experienced officer. The Court, therefore, unanimously and honourably acquitted Admiral Keppel of the several articles contained in the charge against him." He afterwards received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. Mr. Burke, in his celebrated " Letter to a noble Lord," referring to this incident of Lord Keppel's life, pronounces upon him a high eulogium, in which the warmth of his affection for his then deceased friend expresses itself in a strain of noble eloquence. Alluding to a portrait of the Admiral, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, " the excellent friend," as he calls him, " of that excellent man from their earliest youth, and a common friend of us both ; with whom we lived for many years, without a moment of coldness, of peevishness, of jealousy, or of jar, to the day of our final separation," he proceeds thus :—" I ever looked upon Lord Keppel as one of the greatest and best men of his age, and I loved and cultivated him accordingly. He was much in my heart, and I believe I was in his to the very last beat. It was at his trial at Portsmouth that he gave me this picture. With what zeal and anxious affection I attended him through that, his agony of glory. I believe he felt, just as I should have felt, such friendship on such an occasion. I partook indeed of this honour with several of the first, and best, and ablest in the kingdom, but I was behind-hand with none of them ; and I am sure, that if, to the eternal disgrace of this nation, and to the total annihilation of every trace of honour and virtue in it, things had taken a different turn from what they did, I should have attended him to the quarter-deck with no less good-will, and more pride, though with far other feelings, than I partook of the general flow of national joy that attended the justice that was done to his virtue."

A court-martial was subsequently demanded by Sir Hugh Palliser on himself, in which, his behaviour in the engagement having

been investigated, he was also honourably acquitted, and his conduct declared to have been in many respects exemplary and highly meritorious.

The malignant spirit which had led to these painful and unnecessary proceedings was not pacified by their termination. The popular rage, which had been excited against the ministry, vented itself in disgraceful outrages, of which the Admiral's acquittal was made the pretext. The subject was introduced into Parliament; the administration was charged with having intentionally caused the failure of the expedition; and the animosity which these debates engendered was carried to such a pitch, that the Admiral declared, in his place in Parliament, he would not accept of any command under the existing government.

In the year 1780, he was elected member for Surrey. On the thirtieth of March 1782, when Lord North's administration was succeeded by that of the Marquess of Rockingham, he was appointed First Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty and a Member of the Privy Council. The former post he resigned at the commencement of the Earl of Shelburne's ministry, in January, 1783, but resumed it in the following April. In April, 1782, he was created, by His Majesty's letters patent, Viscount Keppel of Elvedon, in the county of Suffolk, with a limitation to the heirs male of his body; but dying, on the third of October, 1786, unmarried, that title became extinct.

Engraved by H. Robinson.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELIOTT, LORD HEATHFIELD.

OB. 1790.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

London Published Dec 1 1808 by Harding & Lepard Pall Mall East.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELIOTT,

FIRST LORD HEATHFIELD.

Lord Heathfield, of whom it may be said that he was all but born a soldier, was the eighth and youngest son of Sir Gilbert Eliott, of Stobbs, in Teviotdale, in the shire of Roxburgh, in Scotland, a Baronet of Nova-Scotia, by Eleanor, daughter of William Eliot, of Wells, in the same county, and was born on the twenty-fifth of December, 1717.

Designed from his cradle for the military profession, his general education, however, according to the laudable custom of his country, had been carefully superintended at home, from whence he was sent, when about the age of twelve, to the university of Leyden, where he became a respectable classical scholar, and acquired the French and German tongues, both of which he was always remarkable for writing and speaking with uncommon precision and elegance. Little time was passed in attaining these advantages, and he was yet a mere child, when he was removed to the celebrated military academy at La Fere, in Picardy, called l'Ecole Royal du Génie, which had been reared and matured under the care of Vauban, the father of the art of modern fortification. To that branch of warlike science, which was therefore particularly cherished in the school, the young Eliott, without neglecting others, peculiarly attached himself, and, having remained there about two years, visited the continent, with the view of seeing exemplified in

active service the principles which he had so sedulously studied in the closet. Having collected all that presented itself in ambulatory observation, he at length entered the Prussian army, as a volunteer, and served in it in that capacity till the year 1735, when he returned to Scotland.

The twenty-third regiment of infantry was then at Edinburgh, and at the request of his father to his friend the Lieutenant-Colonel, he was received into it, also as a volunteer. In the following year, however, a commission was procured for him in the engineer corps at Woolwich, where he remained some time, and at length was removed into the second troop of horse grenadiers, of which his uncle, who was Lieutenant-Colonel, obtained for him the station of Adjutant. It is ascribed to his incessant attention and care in that office that the two troops acquired the foundation of that discipline which has rendered them the finest heavy cavalry in Europe. He formed an attachment to his corps, which increased gradually during about twenty years that he served in it, purchasing the commissions of Captain, Major, and Lieutenant-Colonel, and bravely fighting with it in all the actions of which it partook in the German war, in which he was wounded at the battle of Dettingen. He had now acquired a considerable military reputation, which was acknowledged by his reception into the number of the King's Aides-de-Camp. At length, in 1759, he quitted the horse grenadiers, upon his undertaking to raise and form that gallant regiment of light horse, still as well known by the appellation "Eliott's," as by that of its number, the fifteenth. This done, he led it into immediate service, being appointed to command the cavalry in an expedition to the coast of France, with the rank of Brigadier-General.

From France he passed into Germany, where he held a staff appointment, and served with considerable distinction. Here his own regiment confirmed that reputation for discipline, activity, and enterprise, which have earned for it the proud distinction of being the model upon which all the English light dragoon troops have been since formed. In 1762 his services were transferred to the

Spanish West Indies, where, in conjunction with General Keppel, he assisted in the memorable conquest of the Havannah, in which his services, and those of General Keppel, and Lord Albemarle, who commanded in chief, were so nicely balanced that it is difficult to say to which the greatest share of praise was due. Eliott appears to have received no very considerable allotment of the great treasures captured at the Havannah, but he seems to have shewn no dissatisfaction. Not the smallest taint of a mercenary disposition was to be found in his character. When he returned from this last expedition, and the King, after reviewing his gallant corps, and receiving the standards which had been won, asked him what mark of approbation he could bestow in any degree correspondent to its merits, Eliott replied that his regiment would be proud if his Majesty should think that its deserts would justify him in allowing it in future to prefix to its style the adjunct epithet "royal": and, the King then adding that he wished to confer some mark of distinction on the General himself, he declared that he should ever think his Majesty's satisfaction with his services his best reward. It is said by those who knew him best, that these were probably the genuine sentiments of his heart.

The long interval of peace which now succeeded allowed him several years of a perhaps unwelcome repose, when, early in the year 1775, some symptoms of an unruly spirit having occurred in different parts of Ireland, rendered it proper to place at the head of the troops an officer of the highest military qualifications, and he was appointed Commander-in-chief. He immediately proceeded to Dublin, but even in the instant of his arrival, some occasion of umbrage occurred which his high spirit could not endure, and he desired to be recalled; and, on the eleventh of April, resigned his high employment to the Earl of Harcourt, then Lord Lieutenant. We have sought in vain for the cause of this offence: doubtless, however, his conduct regarding it had the silent approbation of his government at home, for he was presently after placed in the always, and then peculiarly, important station of Governor of Gibraltar. In the summer of 1779 followed that memorable siege,

in which the combined efforts of France and Spain were to the utmost exerted in a contest for their success in which they stood in a manner pledged to the rest of Europe.

With the detail of its progress generally this work has no concern, it belongs to the military history of the country. We shall confine therefore our relation, as far as may be, to those circumstances in which the Governor was personally concerned, and we cite as our authority the published journal of a gallant and meritorious officer, who was present during the whole of the siege. He tells us that, from the first manifestation of hostilities on the part of the enemy, a general activity reigned throughout the garrison, promoted not a little by the example of the Governor, who was usually present when the workmen paraded at dawn of day; that his attention to inventions and improvements in methods of defence, by whomsoever discovered, was only equalled by his constant care of the health of the garrison; that he was not less vigilant in his management of provisions, and that, in a scarcity, particularly of bread, in the beginning of the winter of 1779, he lived himself, by way of example, on four ounces of rice daily. So earnestly did he endeavour to administer to the slender comforts of his troops, that, on the arrival of a vessel laden with wood, he personally superintended the division of it into proper allotments; and, on the occasion of a private soldier having, at the risque of his own life, rescued an officer from the danger of a shell which fell near him, promoted and rewarded the soldier, telling him, however, that if the object of his care had been but his comrade, his humanity should have been equally acknowledged.

In a letter of the 20th of August, 1782, addressed by the Governor to the Duke de Crillon, who had then lately assumed the command of the besieging army, we find the following noble passage—"I return a thousand thanks to your Excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables, and game. You will excuse me however, I trust, when I assure you that in accepting it I have broken through a rule to which I had faithfully adhered since the beginning of the war, and that was never to receive or procure,

by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity, for my own private use, so that, without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here; and the private soldier, if he have money, can become a purchaser as well as the Governor. I confess I make it a point of honour to partake both of plenty and scarcity, in common with the lowest of my brave fellow soldiers. This furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take, of entreating your Excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your favours to my own private use."

Those who may be inclined to depreciate this generosity might, it is true, refer with some plausibility to the indifference, not to say aversion, with which he regarded the luxuries of the table. He ate no animal food, and his only drink was water. He seems indeed to have established, upon cool deliberation, a system of hardship and self-denial, for his own practice as necessary to the exercise of his profession, and might not improperly be called a military philosopher. His refreshment of sleep never exceeded four hours, and so it has been truly said of him that, as he was up earlier and later than other men, and lived only on vegetables, it would have been difficult either to surprise such a commander of a garrison, or to starve him into a surrender. His example in these particulars spread itself among his troops: short intervals of rest, shorter diet, and severe exercise, were in early and constant use throughout all ranks, and the strictest rules of discipline became habitual earlier than the frequent occurrence of occasions for observing them. His vigilance was so unintermitted, his preparations so timely and so sagacious, that he was enabled to repel, with a comparatively small force, every assault to which he was successively exposed. He made no premature attacks on his besiegers, but observed with coolness the progress of labours which it cost them unbounded time, perseverance, and expense, to pursue, and then seized only the proper moment for rendering them abortive. He was sedulously careful of the lives of his men, and not less sparing of his ammunition, and never wasted either in shewy but idle operations.

His discipline was peculiarly exerted in preventing, by the most severe prohibition of plunder, any needless aggravation of the ravages of war, and he was equally careful to preserve his own troops from the corrupt practices of persons who always contrive to connect themselves with the service. His ready attention to the complaints of those who had suffered from military oppression was curiously exemplified in an incident which occurred after the reduction of the Havannah, and was not less indicative of the mildness and kindness of his temper. A Frenchman, who had suffered from the depredations of the troops, found an opportunity of applying personally to the General, intreating him, in bad English, to procure the restoration of his property. His wife, who accompanied him, and who would scarcely suffer him to conclude his supplication, addressed him, in a rage—"Comment pouvez vous demander de grace à un homme qui vient vous dépouiller? n'en espérez pas: vous n'êtes pas François." Eliott, who was at the time engaged in writing, now turned to her and said, "Madame, ne vous vous échauffez pas: ce qui votre mari demande lui sera accordé."—"Eh, faut il pour surcroit de malheur," cried she, "que le barbare parle le François!" The General smiled; took care that their property should be restored; and did them further services. Many pages might be filled with characteristic anecdotes of this great man, not less amiable than heroic. The grand and benign expression of his countenance in the annexed portrait, after perhaps the finest effort extant of Reynolds's pencil, must supply the deficiency.

On the twenty-third of April, 1783, immediately after the communication to him by the Duke de Crillon of a peace, and when the wonderful defence of Gibraltar had been, without intermission, maintained for three years, seven months, and twelve days, General Eliott was invested on the spot with the ensigns of the Order of the Bath. He received the well merited thanks of Parliament, and, remaining for his life in the custody of the great monument of his glory, was, on the sixth of July, 1787, elevated to a British peerage, by the title of Baron Heathfield of Gibraltar,

and on the same day of the same month, in the year 1790, died, of a paralytic seizure, at a seat which he had at Aix-la-Chapelle.

Lord Heathfield married Anne Pollexfen, daughter of Sir Francis Drake, of Buckland in Devonshire, Baronet, and had by her, who died in 1772, Francis Augustus, his successor, in whom the title became extinct: two other sons, who died infants; and one daughter, Anne, married to John Trayton Fuller, of Brightling, in Sussex.

Engraved by H.Robinson

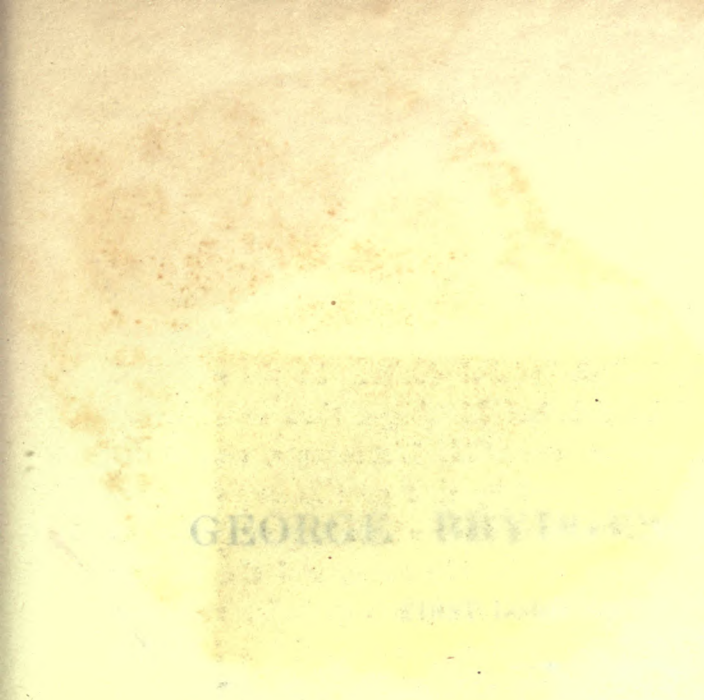
GEORGE LORD RODNEY.

OB. 1792.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE THE EARL OF EGREMONT.

London, Published 4 Dec^r 1. 1830 by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East



GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY,

FIRST LORD RODNEY.

This bright ornament to the long list of our naval heroes was born in the month of December, 1717, second of the three sons of Henry Rodney, of Walton on Thames, in early life a cornet of horse, and afterwards a captain of marines, by Mary, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Newton, an eminent civilian, who had been employed in some diplomatic missions to the Italian States. It has been said that he received his Christian names from George the First, and the Duke of Chandos; that the royal yacht was commanded by his father, who during one of the King's voyages to his German dominions, attended by that nobleman, asked, and obtained, permission so to baptize him, and that they were his godfathers. Now it is well known that the King's yacht is always commanded by a naval officer of considerable distinction, and we have seen here that his father was not regularly even in the naval service. To this may be added the fact that no Duke of Chandos was in existence till two years after the birth of his son; yet we are told that it was "in obedience to his royal and noble godfathers" that the youth was placed in the sea-service; and thus one misrepresentation usually begets another. As this subject, though of little moment, has been carried thus far, it may not improperly be observed that some of his early years were passed in the family of George Brydges, of Keynsham in Somersetshire, representative of a younger line of the House of Chandos, who had probably been his sponsor, and had given him those names.

He entered the navy very young, and is said to have presently gained the esteem of his officers, as well by his general conduct as by his attention to his professional duties. In the spring of 1742 he was appointed by Admiral Matthews, then commanding the fleet in the Mediterranean, one of his Lieutenants, and in the end of the same year was promoted by that gentleman to be captain of the Plymouth, of sixty guns, from which he passed successively through the commands of the Sheerness, and the Ludlow Castle, to the Eagle, also of sixty guns, newly built, and then cruising on the Irish station. In this ship occurred his first success, in the capture of a French and a Spanish privateer, powerful vessels, which he carried into the harbour of Kinsale; and he remained in the command of her till the end of that war, and had an eminent share in the brilliant victory obtained by Sir Edward Hawke, in October, 1747, off Cape Finisterre, over the French fleet, led by M. De Vaudreuil. In this action he was long desperately engaged with two of the enemy's ships at once—"The Eagle," said Sir Edward, in his letter to the Admiralty, "fell twice on board the Admiral's ship, owing to her having her wheel shot to pieces; all the men at it killed; and her braces and bowlines gone."

In March, 1749, after the end of the war, he was removed to the command of the Rainbow, a fourth-rate, and on the ninth of the following May was appointed Governor of the Island of Newfoundland, whither he sailed with a small squadron which was usually stationed there in time of peace. During his absence on this service, he was returned to Parliament for the borough of Saltash, as he was, soon after the next general election, for that of Oakhampton. He now obtained the command of the Kent, of seventy guns, commissioned as a guard-ship at Portsmouth, which he held till the year 1755, when he was removed to the Prince George, of ninety, in which he remained inactive till May, 1757, and was then appointed captain of the Dublin, a seventy-four gun ship, in which he this year again served under Admiral Hawke in the memorable but fruitless expedition against Rochefort. In the

succeeding spring he sailed with Admiral Boscawen on a cruise in the Atlantic, and, on the fourteenth of February 1759, was raised to the station of Rear-Admiral of the Blue, in which he sailed soon after, with a small squadron of ships of war and bomb-vessels, on an expedition against Havre de Grace, where a formidable preparation had been long in progress for an invasion of England or Ireland. The vigilance, activity, bravery, and skill, which distinguished him in this enterprise, were incomparable, and it is with reluctance that we forbear, particularly as the plan, and the orders for the execution of it, were wholly his own, to relate it in full detail. It must suffice to say that he dispersed, and indeed nearly destroyed, the whole of the armament of flat-bottomed boats which had been equipped, together with their magazine of stores, and the town of Harfleur, in which it was deposited. He remained long after this signal success on the French coast, for to such a height had the apprehensions of invasion arisen in London, that it had become matter of serious policy to neglect no means of obviating them.

In the Parliament which met in 1761, he was returned for Penryn, and was now appointed to command an expedition for the attack of Martinico, on which he sailed on the eighteenth of October. It was completely successful, and may be truly considered as the prelude to the conquest of all the French possessions in the West Indies, in all of which he was eminently instrumental. At the conclusion of these services, he received the commission of Vice-Admiral of the Blue; on the twenty-first of January, 1764, was created a Baronet; and on the third of December in the succeeding year, appointed Master of Greenwich Hospital. The first material act of his leisure was highly unpropitious, not to say ruinous, in the minds of all except himself, who valued little but his honour. On the dissolution of the Parliament in 1768, tempted by the hope of success built on a family connexion which will be hereafter mentioned, he offered himself a candidate in a contested election for the town of Northampton, which he gained at the expense of perhaps the whole that he had

realised in the course of his now long service. In October, 1770, he became Vice-Admiral of the White, and then of the Red squadrons, and in the August of the following year Rear-Admiral of Great Britain, immediately after which he was appointed to the chief command on the Jamaica station, on assuming which he resigned his office of Master of Greenwich Hospital.

At the expiration of the term allotted for the continuance of that service his embarrassments compelled him to retire to France, where he was residing in obscurity, and almost penury, when, on the twenty-ninth of January 1778, he was promoted to the station of Admiral of the White. It has been reported, but with great improbability, that about this period, Louis the Fifteenth, apprised of his necessities, made him the most splendid offers to tempt him to engage in the service of France. Those who tell this story, affect to give us the very words of Rodney's answer to the Duke de Biron, whom the king had commanded to make the proposal—"My distresses, sir, it is true, have driven me from the bosom of my country, but no temptation can estrange me from her service. Had this offer been voluntary on your part, I should have deemed it an insult, but I am glad to learn that it proceeds from a source that can do no wrong." It is added that "the Duke was so struck by the patriotism of the Admiral that he became attached to him as a friend, and is said to have advanced a sum of money to him, that he might revisit England, in order to solicit a command." However doubtful the former part of the tale, thus much is certain; that he did, during his exile, contract a strict intimacy with that nobleman, who, with a generosity truly chivalrous, supplied him with a loan so extensive as to enable him to return with ease, and that at a time when hostilities had lately recommenced between the two countries.

At the conclusion of the year 1779 he was appointed Commander-in-chief on the Leeward Island station, whither he was ordered to repair with a powerful fleet, and on his way to relieve Gibraltar, then besieged by the Spaniards. He sailed from Spithead about the middle of December, and, on the eighth of the

following month, fell in with sixteen sail of Spanish merchantmen bound to Cadiz, under convoy of a line of battle ship, and six frigates, the whole of which surrendered to him, without resistance. Passing on towards Gibraltar, he met on the fourteenth, off Cape St. Vincent, with a Spanish fleet of eleven ships of the line and two frigates, which he instantly engaged, and, in an action which continued unremittingly for ten hours, destroyed or captured seven of the former, the Admiral, Don Juan de Langara, falling into his hands. This signal victory thus accomplished, he sailed to Gibraltar, which having effectually relieved, he pursued his course to the West Indies, and off St. Lucia found the French fleet, in force superior to his own, but evidently inclined to avoid an action. After several days, however, he brought them to engage, and was, though not with circumstances so decisive as those which marked his late discomfiture of the Spaniards, again victorious. "At the conclusion of the battle," said he in his own dispatches, "the enemy might be said to be completely beaten." He attempted for many days to bring them again to a general engagement, but they were successful in eluding his endeavours, till they were at length joined near Guadaloupe by eighteen Spanish ships of the line, and Rodney was obliged, in his turn, to stand on the defensive.

The news of these accumulated successes was received in England with a degree of delight and approbation which amounted to extravagance. He who had so lately been banished by private misfortune from his country; neglected by her ministers; forgotten by her people; restored to his family, and private friends, but by the bounty of a foreigner, and a public enemy; became now, as it were in a moment, the prime object of applause and honour; the very idol of all classes of his fellow-subjects. The thanks of both Houses of Parliament were unanimously voted to him; the statutes of the Order of the Bath were infringed by admitting him a supernumerary Knight Companion; the city of Westminster, unsolicited, elected him one of its representatives. The very mention of his name excited all the emotions of love,

and joy, and gratitude. "How strangely and rapidly," to use the words of one who has written largely of him, "he quickly afterwards fell in the public esteem, will be presently shown." He fell however to rise again with additional glory.

Rodney, accompanied by General Vaughan, who commanded the troops on board the fleet, now sailed to the island of St. Vincent, on a misrepresentation of its defenceless state, and landed those forces, in the hope of reducing it, but found the enemy in such strength that he was well satisfied to withdraw them without loss. A reinforcement of seven ships of the line soon after arrived, bringing with them instructions for the immediate attack of the Dutch settlements in those seas, and particularly of the island of St. Eustatia, where the base Hollanders, our professed allies, had established a vast magazine of naval and military stores, solely for the supply of our combined enemies. It surrendered on the third of February, 1781, without resistance: the commanders formally confiscated all that it contained; and property nearly to the amount of three millions sterling fell into their hands; together with one hundred and fifty merchant ships, richly laden, and some vessels of war. Rodney, in his despatches to the Admiralty communicating the news of this important event, says, "I most sincerely congratulate their Lordships on the severe blow the Dutch West India company, and the perfidious merchants of Amsterdam, have sustained by the capture of this island." And in a subsequent letter—"Give me leave to congratulate your Lordship on the acquisition of the two Dutch colonies of Demerara and Essequibo, upon the Spanish main; and, although more colonies have surrendered upon the supposed terms granted to St. Eustatia, yet General Vaughan and myself thought they ought to be put quite on a different footing, and not treated as an island whose inhabitants, though belonging to a state who by public treaty was bound to assist Great Britain against her avowed enemies, had nevertheless openly assisted her public enemy, and the rebels to her state, with every necessary implement of war and provisions, perfidiously breaking those treaties they had sworn to maintain."

On the justice of this condign chastisement there could be but one reasonable opinion, and the King and the Government immediately manifested their approbation of the Admiral's conduct by the grant of a pension of two thousand pounds to himself, with suitable annuities to his Lady, and to each of his children. In the mean time, however, heavy complaints from those who were, or pretended to be, innocent sufferers, arrived in England, which were loudly echoed by certain merchants of London who had been concerned in the infamous traffic. Rodney was represented as having sacrificed his duty to his private interests; his continuance for some time at St. Eustatia, in accordance with his plans of future operations, was ascribed to his eagerness for the more speedy and advantageous sale of his prizes; and every calumny that could be founded on the occasion was levelled at him. A desperate faction in the House of Commons at length found it convenient to join the outcry, and the finest talents in that assembly were prostituted in the aggravation of these slanders. He became for a short time the most unpopular public man in the kingdom. Meanwhile his warfare was in some degree unsuccessful. A powerful French squadron, commanded by the Count de Grasse, appeared in the West Indies early in the summer of 1781. Rodney, with an inferior force, used every effort to bring them to action, which they not only contrived to avoid, but at length seized the island of Tobago, almost in his sight. He soon after resigned the command of the fleet to Sir Samuel Hood, and sailed for England in very ill health, doubtless increased by chagrin, where, immediately on his arrival, an inquiry into the affair of St. Eustatia was instituted, in the conclusion of which he utterly refuted every particular of the charge which had been prepared against him, with a manliness and candour which would have covered with confusion any other party than that which had combined to persecute him.

On the sixth of November he was appointed, on the death of Lord Hawke, Vice-Admiral of Great Britain, and was within a few days after replaced in his West India command. He repaired

without delay to that station, where, being joined by Sir Samuel Hood, and some other force which had followed him from home, he found himself at the head of thirty-six ships of the line. After long delays, the Count de Grasse put to sea on the eighth of April, and Sir George, pursuing him with the utmost possible speed, overtook him near the island of Dominica. De Grasse still endeavoured to stand only on the defensive. He approached however so near, that Rodney, after a heavy cannonade between the two fleets in passing each other on contrary tacks, was enabled to gain the weather gage, and so to force the French to an action, which lasted the whole of the twelfth of April, and is said to have been in a great measure decided by the manœuvre, then nearly new in naval tactics, of breaking through the enemy's line on the part of the British. Be that as it might, a complete and decisive victory was gained by them. The Count de Grasse, in the Ville de Paris, of one hundred and ten guns, with four other ships of the line, fell into the hands of the conqueror, and another was sunk in the action. In the very hour, as may be said, of this splendid success, the faction which had so lately essayed to make his ruin one of their stepping-stones to the attainment of power, and had now seized on the government, sent out an officer to supersede him, who had sailed too far to be recalled when the glorious news arrived in London. In the following September he returned to meet a renewal of vain and worthless popularity, and a solid and honourable reward for the services thus splendidly ended. On the nineteenth of June, 1782, he had been advanced to the Peerage, by the title of Baron Rodney, of Rodney Stoke, in the county of Somerset; and on the first of the following month the House of Commons had voted to him a pension of two thousand pounds, with remainder to his male heirs for ever.

Lord Rodney died in London, on the twenty-fourth of May, 1792, having been twice married; first to Jane, daughter of Charles Compton, and sister to Spencer, eighth Earl of Northampton of his family, by whom he had issue George, his successor;

James, a captain in the Navy, who was lost at sea in 1776; and Jane, who died in infancy. By his second Lady, Henrietta, daughter of John Clies, a merchant of Lisbon, he had two sons; John and Edward; and four daughters; Jane, married to William, son of the late Sir William Chambers; Henrietta, Sarah Brydges, and Margaret Anne.

Engraved by W T Mote

FREDERICK NORTH, EARL OF GUILDFORD.

OB. 1792.

FROM THE ORIGINAL BY DANCE, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE HON^BLE GEORGIANA NORTH.

London Published Dec.^r 1836 by Harding & Lepard, Pall Mall East.

FREDERICK NORTH,

SECOND EARL OF GUILDFORD.

This statesman, who conducted the public government of Great Britain through what has been justly called "a long, a stormy and, at length, an unfortunate administration," was the eldest son of Francis, Earl of Guilford. He was born on the thirteenth of April, 1732, and was educated first at Eton, and afterwards at Trinity College, Oxford, where he acquired a proficiency which few of his contemporaries surpassed in classical literature, and in the other branches of polite learning. Leaving college with a high reputation for genius and attainments, he passed some years in traveling on the continent, and during a residence of several months at Leipsic acquired a knowledge of the languages and constitutions of the European states, which contributed eminently to qualify him for the pursuits with which his subsequent life was almost wholly occupied.

Soon after his return to England, at the general election in 1754, he was returned to Parliament for Banbury, and thenceforward devoted himself wholly to public business, for which he soon displayed great aptitude. In June, 1759, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, and, on the resignation of Lord Bute in 1763, was placed at the head of that board. On the formation of the Rockingham administration he resigned this post, but in June, 1766, he again came into office as Joint Receiver and Paymaster of the Forces, and in the same year was sworn of the Privy Council. The death of Mr. Charles Townshend, in

October, 1767, occasioned several important changes in the administration, one of which was the promotion of Lord North to the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, an elevation for which he was indebted to the influence of the Bedford party with which he had associated himself. In January, 1770, the administration having been broken up by the resignation of the Duke of Grafton, a new one was formed, of which Lord North, who succeeded to the Duke's office of first Lord of the Treasury, was the head, and from this period commenced a series of events which cannot be regarded otherwise than as most disastrous to the welfare and reputation of Great Britain.

The affairs of America, which had begun shortly before this time to engage the public attention, were brought before Parliament in March, 1770. The question to be decided was, the right possessed by this country to tax America. Lord North, who possessed more of that ingenuity which is calculated to evade a pressing difficulty, than of the foresight and firmness which are required of a statesman in an urgent and momentous crisis, adopted a course which wholly defeated the mild and conciliatory disposition that had suggested it. He reduced the amount of taxation, but endeavoured to maintain the right; in other words, he taught the revolted colonies that he feared their power, or distrusted that of his own government. It is needless to recapitulate the evils which ensued from this temporising policy, or which this his first ministerial measure was too obvious an omen, and which ended in the dismemberment of the empire, under circumstances of defeat and disgrace infinitely more bitter than the loss by which they were accompanied.

At home Lord North acquired great popularty, in the early part of his administration, by the flattering picture he drew of the state of the public finances. The revenue, as he represented it, was already sufficient to leave a large surplus for discharging the national debt; the retrenchments which he contemplated would increase this prosperity; and by means of his administration, and, more than all, by his economy of the public money, he

professed his ability, even if war should ensue, to carry on the contest without any additional taxation. His plans for the better government of India, then in a state of great depression, as well political as commercial, were universally approved of, and added greatly to the popularity he enjoyed. Up to the end of the year 1773, the prospect of affairs was indeed well calculated to justify the estimation in which he was held, and the hopes he had raised. America was for a time tranquillised, the domestic discontents had subsided, commerce was in an increasing and flourishing condition, the national debt was in a course of liquidation; and if no events more trying or difficult than those with which he had hitherto had to grapple had ensued, his promises would in all probability have been realised, and his reputation would have endured in the same high and palmy state to which his energies and talents had raised it at the period now referred to.

In March 1774, the Parliament of Great Britain was called upon to adopt measures of a most coercive nature, and of dangerous policy, against the American colonies, in consequence of the riots which had taken place in the port of Boston. At an earlier period, perhaps severity might have been usefully resorted to; but the time had now passed, it was in vain that the opposition pointed out, in a spirit of propheey which subsequent events too fully realised, that the consequence of such proceedings as were then suggested would be, to compel a confederacy between the provinces which had heretofore been divided, and would produce a combined resistance to the mother country; in vain objections were urged to the principle and justice of the proposed law; the majority were not to be convinced, and after a lengthened debate of seventeen days, in which Lord North's eloquence and address were exhibited in their most captivating forms, his fatal triumph was achieved, and shortly afterwards England and America were engaged in irreconcilable hostilities.

From this period the administration was attacked by an opposition too keen-sighted to permit the inconsisteneies of the government to pass unexposed, while the events of the war justified the

charges which were brought against it. "Never," said Mr. Burke, addressing the House of Commons, "have the servants of the state looked at the whole of your complicated interests in one connected view: they have taken things by bits and scraps, just as they pressed, without regard to their relations and dependencies; they never had any system, right or wrong, but only occasionally invented some miserable tale of the day in order to sneak meanly out of difficulties into which they had proudly strutted." The accusation was too true; but the burthen of it did not rest upon Lord North. His frequent absence from the House during the discussions, at the latter end of 1774, gave rise to an opinion that his Lordship's private sentiments did not in all respects concur with the measures which as Minister of the Crown it was his duty to carry forward; and whether this notion was well founded or not, it is at least true that his love of peace and the amiable qualities of his mind were not consistent with the policy pursued by the existing government. That some of the provinces of the revolted colonies had manifested a spirit of discontent and insubordination which would have justified the strongest measures on the part of this country, cannot be disputed; but others of them were so well affected that they would rather have taken part with the British government than have braved the dangers of a total disunion. The fault committed by the administration was, that by one rash resolve they treated the whole of the Colonies as enemies, while by a wiser policy they might have effectually curbed the spirit of resistance and republicanism which had been manifested in Massachusetts, and have preserved the possessions of the Crown. For this grave fault it is that Lord North, at the head of that administration, has to answer to posterity.

From the passing the first coercive measure, which involved a virtual declaration of war against America, no opportunity offered in which the mistake which had been committed could be repaired. All the attempts of the government to detach from the confederacy which their own acts had in fact formed, such of the

provinces as yet retained any feeling of loyalty, were not only ruitless,, but they implied a conviction on the part of Ministers that their first steps had been taken in error. The angry opposition, headed by men of great abilities, whom the miscarriages of our arms on the transatlantic continent furnished with powerful topics of censure and complaint, kept up an incessant attack upon the Ministry, the brunt of which Lord North had to bear. How well he acquitted himself the history of the Parliamentary Debates sufficiently proves. His wit, and eloquence, and imperturbable good temper, the acknowledged worth of his individual character, and the urbanity of his demeanour, while they could not wholly extinguish the flame of party spirit, neutralised much of its acerbity; and, although he was charged in his official capacity with the gravest offences, the most rabid of his opponents would not have hesitated to admit that, as a private gentleman, he was beyond all exception, and the chief grace of the society in which he moved.

In the course of one of the discussions which ensued in the progress of the American war, he was led, in the ardour of debate, and in replying to one of the numerous attacks against him which had been led by Mr. Fox with his utmost vehemence, to say, that he was ready to resign his office whenever the House of Commons should think fit to withdraw from him its confidence. This intimation confirmed the suspicions which had before been entertained of his being at variance with other members of the government, and furnished to his opponents a topic which they never failed to make use of against him. Whenever they had anything to complain of, it was characterised as a subject which ought to enforce the minister's resignation; and this argument was so often repeated that, although it convinced no one, it established the notion that Lord North was not unwilling to withdraw from the incessant toils and the untiring attacks to which he was exposed.

The defeat of General Burgoyne and his troops at Saratoga, in 1777, was attributed to the erroneous and ill-advised directions of ministers. Lord North, who seemed on this occasion to feel that

the censures which were launched against him were not altogether unmerited, made a speech in the House of Commons which was better calculated to disarm the angry feelings that raged against the government, than to convince the people even of his own confidence in the efficacy or propriety of the measures for which he had become responsible. He justified the conduct he had pursued on the ground of the difficulty and novelty of the situation in which he had been placed, and insinuated that the force of circumstances had led him into a line of conduct which, if he had been left to the dictates of his own deliberate judgment, he should not have pursued. His antagonists were not slow in availing themselves of the admission which he had thus made: they contended that if his motives were blameless his incapacity was apparent, and that the time had arrived when, according to his own engagement, he ought to resign his post.

It is possible that these painful remonstrances might have produced the effect which their promoters contemplated, if the success of British arms elsewhere had not consoled the minister for the mortifications he was doomed to experience from America. But the error he had committed respecting the colonies was his only fault. When France, with a want of faith which was rendered more atrocious by the baseness of the motive which suggested it, declared herself the enemy of Great Britain, and when Spain, lured by the hope of aggrandisement, followed similar councils, the vigilance and spirit of the ministry roused the energies of the country so successfully, that they defied the mighty combination which was arrayed against them and vindicated their ancient glory, while they put to utter shame the machinations of their enemies. The measures which Lord North introduced for calming the discontents and for promoting the prosperity of Ireland were so unquestionably beneficial, so wise and enlightened, that while both nations invoked blessings on his name for the advantages he conferred on them, even the opposition admitted that he was entitled to applause; and, upon one occasion at least, he proved that the mild and conciliatory course, to which his

judgment and his inclination led him, might be productive of no less useful results than the severe measures which persons of a less liberal, though a firmer temper, would have adopted.

The defeat of Lord Cornwallis, in October 1781, brought about a crisis in the affairs of the government. The ensuing session of Parliament opened with a violent attack on the part of the opposition against ministers, and the measures they had pursued. Lord North defended himself and his colleagues with success, as far as his success depended on the votes of the House of Commons, but failed in convincing the public, and in disarming the opposition. The attempts of the latter to displace the minister were almost incessant, and having learnt, after frequent defeats, that their want of power was owing to the disunion that prevailed among themselves, they adopted a more systematic plan of operations, which ultimately effected their object. The ministerial majorities began to decline sensibly on various important questions, and at length, in February 1782, a motion of General Conway's for an address to His Majesty, praying him to put an end to the American war, was carried by a majority of twenty-nine votes.

The time had now arrived, the opposition insisted, when Lord North was bound to redeem his pledge; and that, as the House of Commons had expressed their dissatisfaction with his policy, he could no longer, consistently with his often-repeated promises, continue to hold office. Ministers however did not agree to this view of matters. Lord North denied that it appeared by any vote of the House that Parliament had withdrawn its confidence from the government. To try the question thus raised, Lord John Cavendish, on the 8th of March following, proposed a series of resolutions recapitulating the losses the country had sustained since the year 1775, and concluding that the chief cause of these accumulated misfortunes was, the united incapacity and misconduct of the administration. To a charge so general, and embracing so wide a field, it would have been easy for a less accomplished debater than Lord North to give a plausible, if not

a convincing reply; but he did more, he engaged with so much ingenuity and address the fears and other passions of the various parties composing the House of Commons, that they declined to join in resolutions, which would have displaced the existing ministry, and given the reins of government into the hands of the leaders of opposition. This victory, brilliant as it was under such circumstances as beset him, was yet without any more favourable result to Lord North than the personal triumph which it afforded him. He felt that against his harassing and indefatigable opponents he could not much longer maintain the contest; perhaps too he felt that the struggle was not worth being kept up, and on a motion, similar to that which had been negatived, being brought before the House a few days afterwards, he announced that there was no existing administration. Then taking leave of the House of Commons, in a speech of admirable propriety and dignity, he said, that although a successor of greater ability might be easily found, he might be allowed to say that a successor more zealously attached to the interests of his country, more loyal to his sovereign, more desirous of preserving the constitution whole and entire, could not so easily be found. He concluded by inviting the strictest scrutiny into his conduct, and by defying that impeachment with which he had been repeatedly threatened, but which no one ventured to bring forward.

In the Rockingham and Shelburne administration which ensued, Lord North led one of the divisions of the opposition. Upon the dissolution of that government the famous coalition between Lord North and Mr. Fox was formed, which, whatever were its merits in other respects, is at least a proof of the great personal estimation in which his lordship was held, even by men who, in the heat of debate, and und erthe influence of party feeling, had not scrupled to ascribe to him misconduct amounting to criminality. After the breaking up of the-short-lived coalition ministry, Lord North held no responsible situation, and took little share in the discussions in parliament, excepting in the debates on the Regency

in 1789, when he opposed the ministerial project with the same eloquence and wit which had marked the best efforts of his more vigorous years.

During several of the latter years of his life he was afflicted with total blindness, a calamity which however neither disturbed the amenity of his temper, nor prevented him from enjoying the calm delights with which the resources of his accomplished mind solaced the hours of retirement, and the infirmities of declining age. In 1790, on the death of his father, he succeeded to the Earldom, and survived that event only two years, dying on the 5th of August, 1792. His Lordship was married, in March, 1756, to Anne, daughter of George Speke, Esq. of White Lackington, Somersetshire, by whom he had four sons, and three daughters, on the eldest of which sons, George Augustus, his titles and estates devolved.

In estimating Lord North's character as a statesman, it must be admitted that he was somewhat deficient in that severe and audacious spirit which the dangerous times in which he lived and the difficulties it was his lot to encounter, required. But on the other hand, men of all parties have borne testimony to the purity of his motives, the amiability of his temper, his high sense of honour, and his unquestionable probity; while his fine genius and fertile talents added a high grace and splendour to as happy a combination of social qualities as ever dignified the character of a British nobleman.

Engraved by W. T. Mote.

JOHN STUART, THIRD EARL OF BUTE.

OB. 1792.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF RAMSAY, IN THE COLLECTION OF

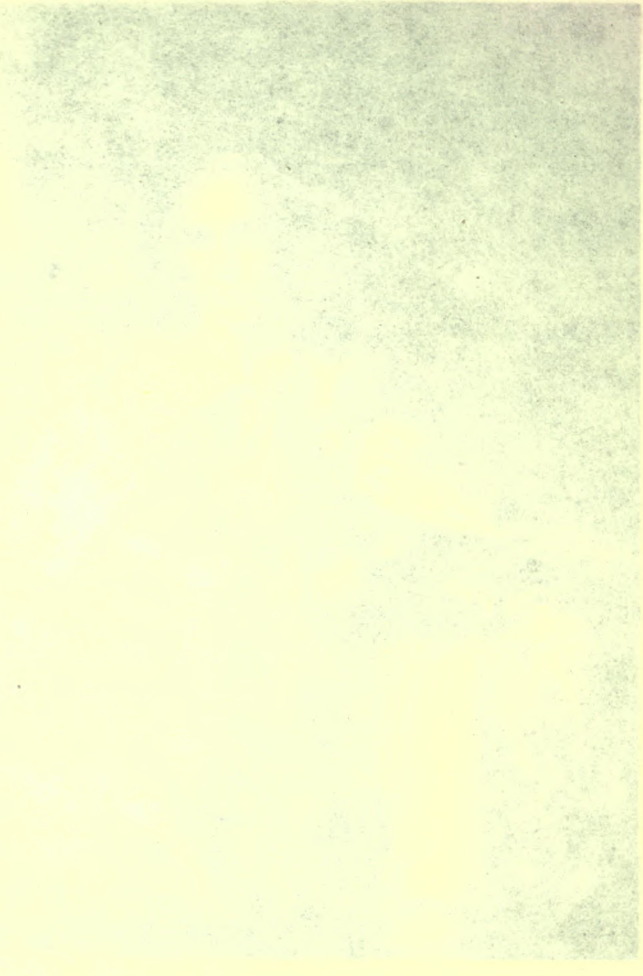
THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF BUTE.

London Published Dec.r 1830 by Harding & Lepard Pall Mall East.

JOHN [illegible]

THIRD [illegible]

THE subject of this [illegible]
second Earl, and [illegible]
Earl of Sus[illegible]
seeded [illegible]
to whom [illegible]
was born [illegible]
having had [illegible]
Third, and [illegible]
important [illegible]
power [illegible]
which [illegible]
date [illegible]
[illegible]
temporary [illegible]
will not allow [illegible]
succeeded by [illegible]
chamber [illegible]
the Stu[illegible]
Here, by the [illegible]
obtained an [illegible]
wards effaced. [illegible]
the country was [illegible]
the abilities, genius, [illegible]
though not Premier, [illegible]



JOHN STUART,

THIRD EARL OF BUTE.

The subject of this memoir was the eldest son of James, the second Earl, and grandson of Sir James Stuart, Baronet, created Earl of Bute in Scotland on the fourteenth of April, 1703, descended from Sir John Stuart, a son of King Robert the Second, to whom his father granted possessions in the Isle of Bute. He was born in 1713, and is memorable for the suspicion, at least, of having had great influence over the reign of King George the Third, and consequently over the affairs of all Europe at that important crisis. This is not the place for recording the distempered views of political parties, or uncovering the cinders of flames which are not yet extinct, but the national clamours against Lord Bute were of a kind which cannot be passed over in silence. That there was some foundation for them, grave and candid contemporary historians, who had very satisfactory means of knowing, will not allow us to doubt. About 1738, Lord Bute, who had succeeded his father in 1722, was appointed a Lord of the Bedchamber to Frederick, Prince of Wales. He was then Groom of the Stole to the young Prince, afterwards George the Third. Here, by the aid of the Princess of Wales, he is supposed to have obtained an influence over the royal mind which was never afterwards effaced. On the King's accession to the throne, in 1760, the country was in a high state of prosperity and glory, raised by the abilities, genius, and magnanimity, of William Pitt, who, though not Premier, really ruled the Ministry and the State.

The nation were already jealous of Lord Bute's favour with the new Monarch, and of his interference with an administration which had led the nation out of the depths of despondence to the pinnacle of power and respect all over Europe. They watched, therefore, even with a janndiced eye, every act and movement of this nobleman.

Popular discontents began with the first session of the Parliament of 1761, by the imposition of a new tax on beer, which was attributed to the influence of Lord Bute, whom his Majesty soon after appointed a Secretary of State, in the room of Lord Holdernesse. Negotiations for peace with France were now attempted, but the French having made some secret propositions regarding Spain, at which the indignant spirit of Pitt, the other Secretary, fired; he proposed to commence a war with Spain by giving the first blow, but he was thwarted by the rest of the cabinet, except Lord Temple. This drove Pitt to a resignation, and Lord Egremont was appointed in his room. The power of Lord Bute over the mind of the young King now daily increased, and the Duke of Newcastle, finding his command in the cabinet to be in a state of rapid decay, resigned the seals of office on the twenty-sixth of May, 1762, and drew after him many of his friends, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Hardwicke, and others. Lord Bute became Premier, and this still added to the popular clamour against the new Minister, who sought to reconcile the public to him by bringing about a peace. The Duke of Bedford was sent to Paris, and preliminaries were signed on the third of November, 1762. The Parliament met on the twenty-fifth of that month, and the speech from the Throne announced the benefits to be derived from this peace. Pitt expressed his strong disapprobation in an eloquent and powerful speech of three hours, delivered in a state of the greatest bodily indisposition and pain. But the address was carried by a great majority, and the definitive treaty signed on the third of February, 1763.

A most formidable opposition was now formed against Lord Bute, of which the Duke of Cumberland, the King's uncle, was at

the head. The minister had to provide for the winding up the expenses of the war, always an ungrateful and difficult task. A duty of four shillings per hogshead on cider was proposed, to be collected by the excise. Against this Pitt poured forth the thunder of his oratory. The minister however carried his measures through, but, to the astonishment of the nation, he suddenly, on the eighth of April, 1763, resigned. The public has to this day speculated on an event so unexpected, without ever arriving with certainty at the secret. Lord Bute's friends assigned it to his love of quiet and retirement, a cause belied by the restless and persevering ambition which had raised him to the post which his friends now said that he voluntarily quitted. But Mr. Adolphus has given extracts from a letter to one of Bute's correspondents which may be taken to show the true reason;—"Single," said his Lordship, "in a cabinet of my own forming: no aid in the House of Lords to support me, except two peers, Lords Denbigh and Pomfret,—both the Secretaries of State silent,—and the Lord Chief Justice, whom I brought into office, voting for me, yet speaking against me,—the ground I tread upon is so hollow, that I am afraid, not only of falling myself, but of involving my Royal Master in my ruin: it is time for me to retire." The Premiership was now conferred on George Grenville, a statesman who was imbued with similar principles, and acted in the same spirit; most of the other offices of state remaining unchanged, though the weight and influence of the Duke of Bedford's rank and fortune, an unexpected junction, considering the hereditary principles of his family, were called to the aid of a party not strong either in talents, power, or the respect of the country. If Lord Bute had known mankind, or the history of the British government, he would never have hoped that he could long retain the reins. He had no original hold on the public; he was one of those men whose power was the consequence of his place, and not his place the consequence of his power, and who therefore, when his place became in danger, lost all his adherents.

But so deep-rooted was the national animosity towards him that

it never left him, even when he had quitted the reins; not even till his death, at the distance of seven-and-twenty years. All the troubled measures of the Court, especially for the next ten years, were ascribed to his influence. Most unfortunately, George Grenville's opinions, views, temper, and conduct, were calculated to confirm this impression. The breaking-out of the American discontents, caused by the impolitic measure of the Stamp Act, which created an almost equal ferment at home, raised a flame of hatred and insurrection against governments, which led to the American emancipation, the French revolution, and all the horrors of the last forty years.

The candid may deem it a most flagrant injury to lay these things on the shoulders of Lord Bute; but, without the smallest influence of political prejudices or animosities, the writer of this Memoir cannot but strongly suspect that the charge is not so ill founded as at first view may appear. King George the Third was a prince of pure and unquestionable virtue, and the most patriotic intentions and wishes. On all occasions he acted, with firmness and courage, according to his conscience. He never sacrificed his opinions to his ease, and never swerved from the rule of conduct which the utmost and most anxious exertion of his understanding deemed to be his duty, and for the interests of the nation over which Providence had placed him. That Lord Bute's political principles were arbitrary, and of the highest cast of toryism, cannot be doubted. These he had unquestionably instilled deeply into the young Prince, and that most virtuous monarch appears never afterwards to have effaced them from his mind and conscience. The Princess of Wales said that her son's temper, when a boy, was obstinate, and that he was not much inclined to mingle with companions: he knew little therefore of the humours, and passions, and characters, of mankind. He had no imagination; and his understanding was obviously, in some measure, technical and artificial. The long and most impolitic perseverance in the American war may be attributed to the servile submission of the ministry, and the unbending resolvedness of the King himself.

The public seems early to have penetrated into these secrets, and to have brooded on their discontents accordingly. Many accidental circumstances may be guessed to have added to the operation of these causes:—the genius of Chatham and Burke; the daring sedition of Wilkes; the unexampled point and bitterness of the sarcasm of Junius; the burning force of Barré; the philosophical and attractive democracy of Franklin. So it happened, that all the talents were on the side of the opponents of government. George Grenville held the premiership from April to August, 1763, but, on the death of Lord Egremont, allowed at least the nominal dignity of that station to the Duke of Bedford, as Lord President of the Council; but the ministry at the end of two years fell: and a whig administration was appointed under the Marquis of Rockingham, in the summer of 1765, of which however Mr. Pitt did not form a part. Mr. John Nicholls, in his "Recollections of the Reign of George the Third," tells an anecdote of the cause which led to the removal of Mr. Grenville, of which, as it was only a rumour, the authenticity cannot be vouched. It is said that the King having expressed a wish that the Princess of Wales, his mother, should be nominated Regent, the minister told his Majesty that it was a measure on which he dared not venture, but that a deeper politician gave a secret instruction to a member to move it as an amendment when the bill was introduced; that this was done, and carried without a word of opposition; and that the King then said that Mr. Grenville, whose power in the House was so feeble, was no minister for him. It must be confessed to be an improbable story: the tide of events was against these tories, and will sufficiently account for their being driven from the helm. The Rockinghams were succeeded by the Duke of Grafton, as Premier, in 1766, when Mr. Pitt took the office of Lord Privy Seal, and was created Earl of Chatham. The Duke of Grafton suddenly resigned in 1770, and was succeeded as Premier by Lord North, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Even at this crisis, when seven years had elapsed from Lord Bute's resignation, the Livery and Corporation of the

city of London presented a remonstrance to His Majesty, accompanied by a petition, praying for a dissolution of Parliament, and the removal of his ministers, expressed in terms not a little offensive. It stated that, "under a secret malign influence, which through each successive administration had defeated every good, and suggested every bad, intention, the majority of the House of Commons had deprived the people of their dearest rights." It represented the expulsion of Wilkes as worse than the levying the ship-money by Charles the First, or the dispensing power assumed by James the Second, and as vitiating all future proceedings of that Parliament. It asserted, that the House of Commons did not represent the people, and concluded by praying for a dissolution of the Parliament, and the removal of the King's evil ministers from his presence for ever.

His Majesty's answer was firm, and strongly expressive of the Royal displeasure. It expressed his readiness to receive the requests, and listen to the complaints, of his subjects; but that it gave him great concern to find that any of them should have been so misled as to offer him an address and remonstrance disrespectful to himself, and irreconcilable to the principles of the constitution. He had ever made the law of the land the rule of his conduct, esteeming it his chief glory to reign over a free people; and had been careful as well to execute faithfully the trust reposed in him, as to avoid even the appearance of invading any of those powers which the constitution had placed in other hands; and concluded by declaring an intention of persevering in the same line of conduct.

There is little doubt that the letters of Junius infixed a barbed and poisoned arrow in the King's heart, which could not be extracted. They may be traced back to the hatred inspired by the jealousy of Lord Bute's influence. Their force lies in the most pointed and bitter sarcasm, and against sarcasm there is no defence: truth of statement, force of argument, even ridicule itself, will do nothing. It is scorn; and against the touch of scorn no one can stand. Johnson has endeavoured to characterise Junius

in a manner which at once shows all that great moralist's acuteness and sagacity, and all his occasional magniloquous verbosity. "Junius," says he "burst into notice with a blaze of impudence which had rarely glared upon the world before, and drew the rabble after him as a monster makes a show. When he had once provided for his safety by impenetrable secrecy, he had nothing to combat but truth and justice, enemies which he knows to be feeble in the dark. Being then at liberty to indulge himself in all the immunities of invisibility, out of the reach of danger he has been bold; out of the reach of shame he has been confident. As a rhetorician, he has had the art of persuading when he seconded desire; as a reasoner, he has convinced those who had no doubt before; as a moralist, he has taught that virtue may disgrace; and as a patriot, he has gratified the mean by insults on the high. Finding sedition ascendant, he has been able to advance it; finding the nation combustible, he has been able to inflame it. Let us abstract from the wit the vivacity of insolence, and withdraw from his efficacy the sympathetic favour of plebeian malignity, I do not say that we shall leave him nothing—the cause that I defend scorns the help of falsehood—but if we leave him only his merit, what will be his praise?"—Again he says: "Junius is an unusual phenomenon, on which some have gazed with wonder, and some with terror; but wonder and terror are transitory passions. He will soon be more closely viewed, or more attentively examined; and what folly has taken for a comet, that from its flaming hair shook pestilence and war, inquiry will find to be only a meteor, formed by the vapours of putrifying democracy, and kindled into flame by the effervescence of interest struggling with conviction, which, after having plunged its followers in a bog, will leave us inquiring why we regard it." The real characteristic of these letters is their personal malignity. They deal little in grand principles, but derive all their strength from the argumentum ad hominem. The scandalous chronicle and court gossip are their food; but the author also always writes with the extreme bitterness of deep individual resentment. He must have been some one wounded to the

heart by what he believed to have been the most provoking private injuries. They are directed to bring the Government into contempt, by exciting indignation and scorn against the individuals who compose it. Thus Wilkes began, but in a coarser manner, and with the more undisguised colours of faction and sedition, against Lord Bute. This was a pest which commenced with the reign; and all sprang out of the jealousy and suspicions which by some misfortune, or imprudence, or impolicy of the ominous kind, was universally spread through the nation against this minister. Temporary prejudices are often taken up without cause, and die away. One cannot refuse some weight to convictions so widely, so radically, and so lastingly entertained.

In Burke's famous pamphlet on "The Popular Discontents," written some years after this minister's retirement, the suspicion of an anterior Cabinet is still dwelt upon among the national evils. But it is strongly asserted that no communication took place between the Monarch and this secluded nobleman after his resignation of office, except that, nearly thirty years afterwards, the King once paid a visit of ceremony to him at his marine villa, as he came into the neighbourhood in one of his Majesty's excursions to the western coast. Probably however it was not actual intercourse, but the spirit of early impressions and principles made on the Monarch's childhood which might justify the attribution to Lord Bute of the character which the Monarch gave to his measures regarding the American war—a war always most unpopular, from its commencement to its unsuccessful end. The King was deeply sensitive; of a princely and unbending pride; highly conscientious; and of a reserved temper, which made him keep his sorrows to himself. He felt insults to the bottom of his heart; and there, it may not be too bold to suppose, lay buried his sorrows till they overset his intellect. Perhaps had his Court been less formal, and his habits more social, he would have thrown them off. The loss of America was probably the grief which at last exploded in his mental derangement. This was the opinion of a confidential subject, old Lord Sydney, derived from the tone of a conver-

sation with the King, immediately before the malady broke out, in 1788.

Lord Bute has much to answer for in the disgust he gave to Mr. Pitt, and the influence or intrigues by which he drove him out of the ministry in 1761. The mighty mind of that eloquent and wise man would have at once preserved America to us, and appeased all discontents. It is idle to say that it is no loss. It is become a rival power, whose growing strength is big with the most portentous events. But the manner in which its remonstrances against absurd taxation were opposed, the feebleness of intellect with which they were argued, the obstinacy with which the resolutions against them were persevered in; yet as if every opposite mischief was to combine, the ruinous vacillation in putting them into execution, the dangerous doctrines which the discussion provoked, the alternate insolence and pusillanimity; raised a storm which is raging in Europe to this day, at the distance of nearly seventy years.

To employ a ministry weak in intellect is a high political crime. The consequences of their measures often extend to the misery of a whole people, and endure for ages. All the institutions of Europe have been subverted by the gradual results of the wrong measures with regard to the American subjects of Great Britain in the administration which succeeded that of Lord Bute, and which trod in his steps. The Rockingham administration, in all respects imbecile, could hold the reins scarcely for one year; and were so hampered by the acts of their predecessors, as to render it impossible to undo the mischief which had been committed. All the ministers who ruled till the resignation of Lord North, in 1782, were more or less élèves of the school of Lord Bute; for though Lord Chatham was Lord Privy Seal for two years, as part of the Grafton administration, he had fallen into such a state of ill health as to be unable to take any part in the cabinet. It has been said that the King was his own minister, and that the measures emanated from himself; and from assuming this, the next step was to attribute them to Lord Bute. The Scotch were sup-

posed to have too strong a preponderance; Lord Mansfield being Lord Chief Justice, and Wedderburne, an unpopular man, Solicitor-General. Many of the ministers were adroit, apprehensive, ductile men, of secondary abilities, but none of them men of genius or grand talent. Lord North was quick, witty, sagacious, and accomplished; but good-humoured, easy, indolent, ductile, and too great a lover of pleasure. He had an Horatian sort of character. Content with the enjoyment of the present moment, the profound enthusiasm and overwhelming imagery of Burke, and the vehement acuteness and copious torrents of subtle argument of Fox, did not disturb him, or drive him from basking in any temporary sunshine which he could command. He filled his offices with mediocrists of every description; employed imbecile courtiers for generals; and resorted to half measures on every occasion.

Meanwhile, Lord Bute, in the bitterness of his disappointments, in the agonies of his destroyed ambition, resigned himself to the most entire seclusion; built a marine villa at Christchurch in Hampshire, and soothed his lonely melancholy by sitting, day after day, listening in abstraction to the roar of the sea, and the break of the waves. His principal, if not only, study was botany. He is said to have been on very cold terms with his family, who resided in the same mansion, but in a separate part of it, and associated little with him. He had married the daughter of the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and procured an English peerage for her, on his being appointed Secretary of State, in 1761.

His lady finally succeeded to the Wortley estates, on the death, issueless, of her eccentric brother. Lord Bute built a splendid mansion at Luton, in Bedfordshire, but resided very little there. His private Secretary had been Charles Jenkinson, afterwards Earl of Liverpool, whom the odium of his early entrance into life pursued almost to his old age.

Almost all that has been here said is matter of general history. The love of private scandal is most remote from the feelings of the present memoir-writer. To justify what has been said, the follow-

ing paragraph is quoted from one of our common histories—"Soon after the meeting of parliament, 1772, the Princess-dowager of Wales departed this life, in her fifty-fourth year. The private character of this Princess is allowed to have been amiable; but her influence over the King, her son, was united to that of Lord Bute," &c. That all these charges are not totally without foundation may be seen by Lord Waldegrave's Memoirs, which no doubt deserve attention.

If there are those, who will think that this memoir has been written with too much freedom and severity of opinion, let it be recollected that history and biography are only useful as they speak the truth; as they develop principles, display characters, and show the springs and consequences of actions; that the flattery of individuals and the casting a veil over public errors, is as useless as it is injurious; and that dry facts, without reflections or comments, are the most unprofitable of all reading; that the time is perhaps arrived, when we may take the liberty to speak of the reign of George the Third, as of the reign of Elizabeth or James, and that a clue to the apparently strange malignity which pursued for half a century one of the most virtuous of our monarchs can never be a subject of indifference, or barren knowledge.

Lord Bute is said to have been of a handsome person, but of a cold reserved uncourtly address. His disappointed ambition has been no cloud upon his family, who now enjoy the peerage in three branches, as well as great affluence. The present Marquis, his great-grandson, has united himself with the grand-daughter and coheiress of Lord North, the minister. Lord Bute died in 1792, at the age of 79.

Engraved by H.T. Ryall

WILLIAM MURRAY, FIRST EARL OF MANSFIELD.

OB. 1793

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE Rt HONble THE EARL OF MANSFIELD.

PROOF

London Published Dec 1.1836. by Harding & Lepard. Pall Mall East.

WILLIAM

FIRST

THIS great lawyer
was the eleventh
David Murray
only child
noble house
March
his parents
southern relations
under their care
of Westminster
one of his
abilities,
particularly
prognostic
perfection
distinguished
the university on the
Christ Church on
became presently
and, among the
positions at that
death of King George
a large fragment of
sufficiently prove
acquired.

WILLIAM MURRAY,

FIRST EARL OF MANSFIELD.

THIS great lawyer, and universally accomplished gentleman, was the eleventh of the fourteen children, and the fourth son, of David Murray, fifth Viscount Stormont in Scotland, by Margery, only daughter of David Scot, of Scotstarvet, an ancestor of the noble house of Buccleuch, and was born at Perth on the second of March 1705. To lessen the burthen of so extensive a progeny, his parents intrusted him, at the age of three years, to some southern relations, who brought him to London, and he remained under their care till 1719, when he was admitted a King's scholar of Westminster school. Here, says Bishop Newton, who was one of his fellow-students, "he gave early proofs of his uncommon abilities, not so much in his poetry as in his other exercises, and particularly in his declamations, which were sure tokens and prognostics of that eloquence which grew up to such maturity and perfection at the bar, and in both Houses of Parliament." Thus distinguished we find him at the head of those who went off to the university on the election, in May 1723, and he was entered of Christ Church on the eighteenth of the succeeding month. He became presently regarded as the prime ornament of his college; and, among the very few specimens which remain of his compositions at that time, his elegant academical Latin verses on the death of King George the First, which gained the first prize, and a large fragment of an oration in praise of Demosthenes, will sufficiently prove the justice of the reputation which he had then acquired.

He was admitted a student of Lincoln's Inn in April, 1724; took the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in 1727, and of Master, on the twenty-fourth of June, 1730, and in the Michaelmas term of that year was called to the bar. It was long, however, before he commenced to practise, for just after that period he left England, and made the tour of France and Italy, and this part of his early story seems to require an explanation which we can nowhere find. It is very unlikely that the younger son of a family far more numerous than wealthy should have undertaken such an expedition from the usual motives, or that a young man of his character and talent should, at a critical period of his maturity for a considerable interval quit the exercise of that assiduity which the study of the profession of the law requires; some paramount inducement must have occurred to tempt him to submit to such disadvantages, and it is not improbable that it might have arisen out of these circumstances—William, second Duke of Portland, then twenty years old, set out on the same tour, and returned to England at the same period with Mr. Murray, and though we hear of no particular intimacy or connection between them, either before or after, yet two very long disquisitions on the studies of ancient and modern history, written by the latter to the young Duke, are extant, and have so exactly the air of the instructions of a preceptor to a pupil, that it is difficult to believe that the parties did not stand in that sort of relation to each other. Might not Murray then, in the convenient certainty of present emolument, and the view of future advantage in his profession from powerful friends, have adopted temporarily the highest class of that office; conscious, too, that many flowers would present themselves on his journey, with which he might afterwards ornament the forensic wreath which a laudable ambition had perhaps already anticipated?

On his return he applied himself with renewed vigour to the enlargement of the professional studies which he had already extensively cultivated at College, but it was in a method of his own. His powerful mind scorned the mechanical labours of a special pleader's office, and he emerged suddenly from his own

closet, with most of the knowledge that a lawyer usually derives from experience, and all the eloquence which nature, even with the aid of habit, seldom confers on a public speaker: meanwhile he had cultivated polite literature with ardour and with success, and formed intimacies with the eminent wits and poets of the day. At the head of these was Pope, to whose admiration of his talents was soon added the feelings of a sincere friendship. "Mr. Pope," says Warburton, "had all the warmth of affection for this great lawyer, and indeed no man ever more deserved to have a poet for his friend; in the obtaining of which as neither vanity, party, nor fear, had a share, so he supported his title to it by all the offices of a generous and true friendship." Pope, who was most cautious in his selection of subjects for the approbation of his muse, has again and again sung the praises of Murray, as well before as after the establishment of his professional fame, which, however, is said to have been somewhat retarded by the dull prejudices of many who thought fit to pay the bar the worst imaginable compliment, by asserting that the characters of a man of lively genius, and a good lawyer, were incompatible. Pope himself has bestowed half a dozen lines of ridicule on this malicious absurdity—

> "The Temple late two brother serjeants saw,
> Who deem'd each other oracles of law;
> With equal talents, these congenial souls,
> One lull'd the Exchequer and one stunn'd the Rolls.
> Each had a gravity would make you split,
> And shook his head at Murray as a wit."

His practice may be said to have commenced early in the year 1733, when he was frequently associated at the bar of the House of Lords, with those great leaders, Yorke, and Talbot, to whom his powers instantly became evident, and were acknowledged by them; but his reputation was not generally fixed till nearly three years after that date, when he defended, in both Houses of Parliament, the Lord Provost and City of Edinburgh against a bill of pains and penalties, by which they were prosecuted on the remarkable occasion of the murder, by a mob, of Captain Porteous, a

public criminal, who had been condemned and reprieved. From that period scarcely any cause distinguished by any nicety, either of fact or law, was argued, either in the Courts or before Parliament, in which he did not appear as an advocate, and always with increasing fame. A writer, who has celebrated his memory with more zeal than taste, has taken the pains to prove from authorities that in the year 1738 there were fifteen appeals heard and determined in the House of Peers, and that Mr. Murray was employed, for appellant or respondent, in eleven of them; and that in the two following years he was engaged in thirty similar cases before the same tribunal. Well therefore might his friend Pope exclaim, in his imitation of one of the Epistles of Horace—

> "Graced, as thou art, with all the power of words,
> So known, so honoured, at the House of Lords"—

Nor must the four succeeding lines, for the sake not only of the moral, but of the exquisite compliment connected with it, be omitted—

> "Conspicuous scene! another yet is nigh;
> More silent far; where kings and poets lie!
> Where Murray, long enough his country's pride,
> Shall be no more than Tully, or than Hyde."

On the twentieth of November, 1738, he married the Lady Elizabeth Finch, one of the six daughters of Daniel, sixth Earl of Winchelsea, and second Earl of Nottingham; and was about that time elected to represent in Parliament the town of Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, for which also he was returned in the years 1747, and 1754. In November, 1742, he was appointed Solicitor General. The rebellion of 1745 produced abundance of instances, not only of the splendid powers of his mind, but of his moderation and humanity. On the trial of Lord Lovat, he joined the character of a manager for the Commons to that of Counsel for the Crown. Lovat himself, even in answer to the awful question, "what he had to say why judgment of death should not be passed on him?" could not suppress a warm encomium on the Solicitor General.—

"I thought myself," said he, "very much loaded by one Murray, who your Lordships know was the bitterest evidence against me. I have since suffered by another Murray, who I must say with pleasure is an honour to his country, and whose eloquence and learning are much beyond what is to be expressed by an ignorant man like me. I heard him with pleasure though it was against me. I have the honour to be his relation, though perhaps he neither knows it, nor values it. I wish that his being born in the north may not hinder him from the preferment that his merit and learning deserve. Till that gentleman spoke, your Lordships were inclined to grant my earnest request, and to allow me farther time to bring up witnesses to prove my innocence, but it seems that has been over-ruled."

But it is probable that these praises, coming from such a quarter, might not have been altogether accceptable to Murray, whose family was more than suspected of holding the same principles with the unhappy nobleman who uttered them, and he himself had naturally enough become somewhat tinctured with them in his very early youth; but they had long since faded away in him, leaving no trace but in that firm attachment to Monarchy which distinguished the friends of the discarded royal house. The recollection however of his having once in some degree given way to such prejudices was ridiculously revived, through the folly, or the envy, of one of his schoolfellows, Christopher Fawcett, who found himself in the character of a country lawyer, and recorder of Newcastle on Tyne, while Murray was Solicitor General, and rising rapidly to the head of the profession. It had got abroad in Newcastle, from the report of this person, that several gentlemen, among whom was Murray, had many years before betrayed a jacobitical inclination, and that he, Fawcett, knew that they were at that time in the habit of drinking the Pretender's health, of which he named a particular instance. This idle tale at length reached Lord Ravensworth, a newly created northern Peer, who, hearing from Fawcett that Mr. Stone, a confidential servant of Frederic Prince of Wales, was one of the party

charged, hastened, overflowing with loyalty, to Mr. Pelham, the chief minister, and, enumerating them by name, is said to have insisted on the removal of Stone. The minister would have slighted it, as it deserved, but Ravensworth treated it so seriously, and spoke of it so openly, that Mr. Pelham was obliged to mention it to the King, who magnanimously said, "Whatever they were when they were Westminster boys, they are now my very good friends." The matter however had gone too far to be passed over silently. It underwent a discussion of seven evenings by a committee of the Cabinet. Murray had previously represented to his Majesty that if he should be called before such a committee, on so scandalous and injurious an account, he would "resign his office, and refuse to answer," of which the King approved. After the enquiry had ended, he demanded an audience, in which he is said to have spoken as by inspiration, and to have demonstrated that the affair, from a solemn trifle, had been forced into the character of a party attack on the administration; and indeed so it proved, for at length the Duke of Bedford, to push it to the utmost, on the twenty-second of January, 1753, moved in the House of Lords to address the King for the proceeding before the Council, when, after a long debate, and a division, only four Peers voted with him, and thenceforward the whole story fell deservedly into contempt.

That Murray suffered no diminution of favour or reputation from this almost ridiculous affair is clearly proved by the fact that he was promoted to the office of Attorney-General in the following year, on the elevation of Sir Dudley Ryder to that of Chief Justice of the King's Bench; and that, on Sir Dudley's death, in 1756, he also succeeded to that exalted station, into which he was sworn on the eighth of November, in that year, at the house of the Chancellor, Lord Hardwicke, who, immediately after, put the Great Seal to a patent, creating him Baron of Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham.

Four days after his appointment he declared it in court, as a rule, that in cases on which the judges had no doubt, they ought never to put the parties to the delay and charge of a further argu-

ment. This regulation, thus publicly uttered, together with his attention, punctuality, and dispatch, soon rendered the Court of King's Bench the most popular seat of jurisprudence perhaps in Europe, and in the prosecution of all suits in which the public had an option of Courts, it was sure to have the preference. Those who may wish to have a clearer idea of Lord Mansfield's incomparable presidency in it for so many years, will find in Sir James Burrow's Reports ample details published at the time, which he concludes thus :—"and yet, notwithstanding this immensity of business, it is notorious that, in consequence of method, and a few rules which have been laid down to prevent delay, even where the parties themselves would willingly consent to it, nothing now hangs in court. Upon the last day of the very last term, if we exclude such motions of term as, by desire of the parties, went over of course as peremptories, there was not a single matter of any kind that remained undetermined, excepting one case, relating to the proprietary lordship of Maryland, which was professedly postponed on account of the present situation of America." Such was the domestic œconomy of Lord Mansfield's court—the grand principle of all his decisions, equity, in the largest and most general sense of the word.

His several public stations necessarily connected him more with political affairs than perhaps suited his inclination. He was considered, during the latter years of King George the Second, as a leader among those who were then called "the Prince of Wales's friends," when his endeavours seem in fact to have been confined to calm and honest mediation between contending parties, and jarring interests ; through the whole remainder of his public life, in the succeeding reign, he invariably supported the King's government, with the exception of the short administration of Lord Rockingham in 1765, and had frequently to encounter accordingly much of the vulgar obloquy to which all those with whom he acted were invariably subject. His politics, however, were as pure as his judgments, while the characters of his eloquence in Parliament, and in his Court, were varied in the most felicitous

measure of adaptation to each. He had a most happy temper, and could conciliate his warmest adversaries without effort. The great Lord Chatham, to whom he was always opposed, once said, in answering him in the House of Lords—"I must beg the indulgence of the House; neither will my health permit me, nor do I pretend to be qualified, to follow that noble Lord through the whole of his argument. No man is better acquainted than I am with his abilities and learning, nor has a greater respect for them than I have. I have had the pleasure of sitting with him in the other House, and always listened to him with attention. I have not now lost a word that he said, nor did I ever"—and, on another occasion, having in one of his celebrated speeches drawn the characters of the great lawyers, Holt and Somers, turning suddenly to Lord Mansfield, he said—"I vow to God I think the noble Lord equals them both in abilities."

With all the qualities of a great Minister, and more integrity than any Minister of his time, he might, as it were, have placed himself, whenever he had thought fit, in any of the highest offices of the State, but he loved too well the independence of his own profession, and even in that he thrice refused the supreme appointment. He accepted, it is true, that of Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the spring of 1757, but it was merely to give leisure, in a time of furious party contention, for the convenient arrangement of a new administration, and he held it but for three months. Among the slanders with which envy assailed him he was charged with pusillanimity—let those who would have evidence on that head turn to his recorded speech on the question of Wilkes's outlawry, and they will find, in a flow of eloquence, utterly impracticable under the influence of personal apprehension, the grandest sentiments of a calm and genuine courage, uttered too even in the hearing of a mob of thousands, who were at the moment besieging the portals of his court. He was accused too of avarice: but be it recollected that after his town mansion, with all the inestimable treasures which it contained, was sacked by the incendiary rioters of 1780, he steadfastly refused the indemnification pressed on him

by a vote of the legislature. It is painful to be obliged to confine this sketch of the story of so truly great a man to a mere imperfect outline. Abundant materials exist for perfecting the picture, and it is strange that they should have been hitherto suffered to remain scattered, for the sole publication bearing the title of "his Life" scarcely deserves to be mentioned.

Lord Mansfield continued to hold his high office, with unimpaired faculties of mind and body, till the month of July, 1788, when, on some warnings of decay in those of the latter, he resigned. His nobler powers retained their pristine strength and brilliancy till within a very few hours of his dissolution, which occurred on the twentieth of March, 1793. He left no issue; his barony, therefore, became extinct; but the title of Earl of Mansfield, which had been granted to him on the eleventh of August, 1 82, with remainder to his nephew, David, Viscount Stormont, descended to that nobleman, and, at his death, to his son, David William, third Earl, who now enjoys it.

Engraved by H Robinson

CHARLES PRATT, FIRST EARL CAMDEN.

OB. 1794.

FROM THE ORIGINAL BY DANCE, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS CAMDEN.

London Published Decr 1, 1838 by Harding & Lepard Pall Mall East.

CHARLES PRATT,

FIRST EARL CAMDEN,

Was the third son of Sir John Pratt, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, by his second wife, Elizabeth Wilson, the daughter of the Rev. Hugh Wilson, a clergyman of Montgomeryshire and Canon of Bangor. His family, on either side, was ancient and respectable, and, in the paternal line, had been settled at Careswell Priory, near Collumpton in Devonshire, ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The exact date of his birth has not been ascertained, but it must have been between the end of 1713 and the beginning of the following year. He appears to have been destined for the bar from a very early age, for when only in his fifteenth year, his name was inscribed in the books of the Inner Temple. After having been for some years at Eton, where Pitt, Lyttelton, and Horace Walpole, were his associates, he went to King's College, Cambridge, in 1731, and took his Bachelor's degree there in 1735-6. In Trinity Term, 1738, he was called to the bar, and graduated Master of Arts in the following year. For a long time he devoted himself to the study of the science he had chosen, with no other reward than the acquisition of that extensive and profound knowledge of all the subjects it embraces, for which he became afterwards so deservedly celebrated. The want of beneficial practice is said to have so tired his patience, that after eight or nine years of unrequited toil, he entertained serious thoughts of quitting his profession, and was only diverted from executing this resolve by a good-natured arti-

fice of his friend, Henley, afterwards Lord Northington. Mr. Pratt was engaged with him in a cause on the Western Circuit, and Henley, believing that an opportunity was only wanting to convince the world of the powers his friend possessed, purposely absented himself when the trial commenced. The duty of leading the cause devolved on Mr. Pratt: the result proved the justice of his friend's reliance on his knowledge and talents; and it happened in this case, as in many others, that there was but one step from obscurity and neglect to distinction and honour. Business came upon him in an ample tide; his connexions strengthened his personal efforts, and he was soon acknowledged to be one of the most eminent among the advocates of his day.

On Mr. Pitt's accession to power, in June, 1757, he procured the appointment of Attorney-General for his early friend, who was soon afterwards returned to Parliament for the borough of Downton. At about this time, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Jeffreys, Esq., of the Priory, in the county of Brecon. Before he accepted the office of Attorney-General, his practice had been confined to the common law bar; he afterwards, however, applied himself to the Courts of Equity, and with so much success, that he appears from the reports of the time to have been engaged in almost every important case which came under discussion there. The manner in which he discharged the duties of his office engaged the respect of the profession and the applause of the public, and was not less distinguished for ability than for that candour and moderation which best become the character of the Government advocate.

In 1759, he was chosen Recorder of Bath. In October, 1761, Mr. Pitt went out of office; the Attorney-General, however, was not included in the changes which ensued, but retained his post, until, in the following December, a vacancy having occurred on the bench of the Common Pleas, he was appointed Lord Chief Justice of that court, and took his seat on the thirteenth of January, 1762. A letter, written by him to his friend, Dr. Davies, has been preserved, which throws a light upon the thoughts that

then occupied his mind, and which are rendered more apparent by the effort he makes to disguise them. "I remember," he says, "you prophesied formerly that I should be a Chief Justice, or perhaps something higher. Half is come to pass: I am Thane of Cawdor; but the greater is behind; and if that fails me, you are still a false prophet. Joking aside, I am retired out of this bustling world to a place of sufficient profit, ease, and dignity, and believe that I am a much happier man than the highest post in the law could have made me." The "greatest" however was to come, and was not the less certain in the writer's belief for his affected disclaimer.

The proceedings against Wilkes, for his libellous publication in the North Briton, came under the consideration of the Court of Common Pleas, in the year 1763. A *Habeas Corpus* had been sued out by that factious demagogue, for the purpose of trying the legality of his commitment to the Tower. The Chief Justice's opinions on subjects connected with the liberty of the press, and the freedom of political discussion, had been frequently avowed in the discharge of his duties at the bar, and particularly on the trial of Owen, a bookseller, prosecuted in 1752 for publishing a pamphlet relating to the case of Mr. Alexander Murray, who was committed to Newgate by the House of Commons, and in the prosecution of Dr. Shebbeare. It was for this reason probably that Wilkes had his writ made returnable in the Court of Common Pleas. The question of the legality of general warrants, under one of which Wilkes had been apprehended, although it was a point in the case, was not then decided. The principle that privilege of Parliament protects members from arrest in all cases except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, was that upon which the Lord Chief Justice grounded the judgment he pronounced, and, being of opinion that the libel which Wilkes had published did not fall within either of the excepted cases, he directed his discharge. In an action which was afterwards, in the course of the same year, brought by Wilkes against Mr. Wood, the Under Secretary of State, to recover damages for the execu-

tion of a general warrant, under which his papers had been seized the Chief Justice unequivocally declared his conviction of the illegality of such warrants, which, he said, might be made totally subversive of the liberty of the subject. The soundness of this decision has not been questioned; and, although a great diversity of opinion was expressed upon the subject, and the large amount of the damages in this, and in other similar cases at the same period, brought the whole subject into frequent discussion, no appeal was preferred from the doctrine then first promulgated, and which has since been established by a vote of the House of Commons, declaring warrants for the seizure of papers in cases of libel illegal. That malignant spirit of faction which has so often exercised a most mischievous influence over the public affairs of this country attempted to wrest these events, in which the power of the laws only was established, into a party triumph. The Chief Justice received the public thanks, and was presented with the freedoms of various corporations, and among others, with that of the City of London, at whose request his portrait was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and placed in Guildhall, with an inscription, expressing the respect of the corporation for his zeal and integrity in asserting the laws by which English liberty is protected.

Such honours have been too often indiscreetly bestowed to make their worth unquestionable; but a more solid and grateful reward was bestowed upon the Judge by the Crown, in creating him, in July, 1765, Baron Camden, of Camden Place, in the County of Kent. That this distinction was the recompense for past services, and not the price of his future assistance, became evident from the course which Lord Camden adopted in the House of Lords. In the debate on the resolution affirming the right of Great Britain to make laws binding on the American Colonies, he strenuously opposed the government, and maintained the principle, that where representation did not exist, taxation could not be imposed, with great force of reasoning, and with admirable eloquence.

In July, 1766, the short-lived Rockingham administration

having fallen to pieces, Mr. Pitt once more assumed the reins of the government; and Lord Northington having resigned the Great Seal, it was committed to the hands of Lord Camden. At this period no retiring pension had been annexed to the office of Chancellor, and it had therefore been usual to make some arrangement by which persons accepting an office of tenure so precarious should be sure of a provision in the event of political changes effecting their dismissal. When Lord Camden was appointed Chancellor, the reversion of a tellership in the Exchequer was granted to his son, with a pension of £1,500 to himself, if he should cease to be Chancellor before his son's office came into possession.

In the Parliament which followed Lord Camden's appointment, the popularity which he had long enjoyed was placed in jeopardy. The price of grain, which had increased in an alarming degree, had rendered it necessary to lay an embargo on the exportation of wheat, and an order of Council was passed to this effect shortly before the meeting of Parliament, which amounted virtually to the repeal of an existing statute. The necessity of the measure was not disputed; but the opposition insisted that it was a breach of the constitution, and that a bill of indemnity should be passed, by way of protest, against the possibility of such an occurrence being drawn into a precedent. In the debates which ensued on this subject, Lord Camden and Lord Mansfield were opposed to each other, and the ground was laid for that angry feeling which was often afterwards displayed between them. The vindication by Lord Camden of the proceedings of the government seemed to involve a desertion of the principles which he had often before advocated. It cannot be denied that his conduct on this occasion was inconsistent with his past public life; and after all proper allowances shall have been made for the lengths to which the ardour of debate may have carried him, it must be admitted that his arguments were unsound, and his positions incorrect, although it was not even suggested by those who were most warmly opposed to him, that any violation of the constitution had been

contemplated, or was likely to ensue from the measures he in vain attempted to justify. The frequent attacks of illness to which Lord Chatham was exposed, and which seemed to increase in violence, compelled his absence from the administration he had formed. The consequence was soon perceived in the disunion which prevailed among its members. On the question of American taxation, and on the proceedings which ensued with respect to the Middlesex election, Lord Camden was so little able to agree with his colleagues, that he withdrew from the Council. In the beginning of 1770, Lord Chatham having returned to the House of Lords, expressed his vehement opposition to the address, and Lord Camden availing himself of this opportunity, gave vent to the long-smothered anger which the measures of the Administration had inspired. He had accepted the seals, he said, without conditions, but he had too long submitted to be trammelled by His Majesty—he begged pardon—by his Ministers. He would so submit no longer. He had beheld for some time, with indignation, the arbitrary proceedings of the Government; he had often drooped and hung his head in council, and had disapproved by his looks those steps which he knew his avowed opposition would not prevent. He would, however, do so no longer, but openly and boldly speak his sentiments. He characterized the vote of the Commons as an attack upon the first principles of the constitution, and declared that if, as a judge, he were to pay any regard to it, he should look upon himself as a traitor to his trust, and an enemy to his country. This tardy boldness can, however, hardly be received as an apology for the supineness with which he had for so long a period remained a participator in measures which his feelings and his judgment had condemned. Soon afterwards he was removed from his office, and joined in that opposition to Lord North's Administration which ensued.

In the Parliament which met in November, 1770, Lord Mansfield's charge to the jury on the trial of Woodfall the printer gave rise to discussions in which Lord Camden was personally opposed to Lord Mansfield, and in which he denounced the practice which

the Lord Chief Justice had laid down, as contrary to law and dangerous to liberty. The question of the right of juries to return a general verdict has now been finally settled; but while the principles for which Lord Camden contended have received this later sanction, it should be remembered that the judges of that day were unanimously of opinion that Lord Mansfield's notions were correct as the law then stood. In the debates on the unhappy contest with America, Lord Camden took a frequent and active, sometimes a violent part. In proposing a bill for the repeal of the Quebec Government Act, he was once more engaged in an angry difference with Lord Mansfield, towards whom his animosity appears to have been easily excited. The protest of the dissentient Lords against the manifesto of the commissioners, declaring the hostile American provinces under martial law, proceeded from his pen; and at length, in 1781, wearied by a fruitless opposition, and when, as he himself expressed it, "hope was at an end, and zeal had no object which could call it into activity," he determined to withdraw from Parliament, and appeared no more during that session. In the following Parliament the Ministry, unable any longer to withstand the attacks of their opponents, was dissolved, and in that which ensued, Lord Camden was appointed to the distinguished office of Lord President of the Council. On the formation of the coalition Ministry, he again went into opposition; when that Administration was dissolved, Lord Gower held the office of President for a short time, but soon afterwards resigned it to Lord Camden, who, from this period until his death, continued to employ himself in public business with an activity and energy which seemed to defy the approach of age.

The last occasion on which Lord Camden took part in the public debates was one well fitted to crown the labours of such a life as his. In 1792, Mr. Fox's libel bill was brought into Parliament. This measure was a confirmation of the principles for which he had combated from the earliest period of his professional career, and which, in and out of power, through good and through

evil report, he had firmly maintained. At nearly eighty years of age he witnessed the triumph of those principles, and had the gratification of sanctioning by his vote the ultimate establishment of a measure which he believed to be consistent with the genius of that constitution to the support of which his whole existence had been devoted with almost religious fervour. "The hand of age," he said in the beginning of his speech, "is upon me, and I feel myself unable to take an active part in your Lordships' deliberations. On the present occasion, however, I consider myself as particularly, or rather as personally, called upon. My opinion on this subject has long been known; it is upon record; it is upon your Lordships' table." He went on to support the bill in a speech which in its profound sagacity and learning alone savoured of old age, and which is said to have equalled the most admirable displays of his vigorous years. On the thirteenth of April, 1794, this nobleman closed his valuable and distinguished life. Of his talents as a lawyer abundant proof is on record; as a judge he was firm, inflexible, and unbiassed; as a statesman he was public-spirited and independent; and in private life eminently affectionate and amiable.

By his lady, here already mentioned, for he never re-married, he left an only son, John Jeffreys, who succeeded him in the titles of Viscount Bayham and Earl Camden, which had been conferred on him in 1786, and who was afterwards elevated to that of a Marquis. The Chancellor had also three daughters; Frances, relict of Robert Stewart, first Marquis of Londonderry; Sarah, widow of Nicholas Price; and Jane, of Sir Walter-James James, Baronet; all of whom are since deceased.

Engraved by J. Cochran

SIR WILLIAM JONES..

OB. 1794.

FROM THE ORIGINAL OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, IN THE COLLECTION OF

THE RIGHT HON^BLE THE EARL SPENCER.

SIR WILLIAM JONES

PERHAPS the most accomplished, as well as the most universal, scholar ever produced by this island, was the only surviving son of Mr. William Jones, a native of the isle of Anglesey, and a self-taught mathematician, who attained to a perfection in the study of his favourite sciences, and at length to a high degree of well-earned public fame. Late in life, he married Mary, the daughter of an ingenious and respectable mechanic in Dorsetshire, of the name of Nix, a woman also of extraordinary natural and acquired qualifications, and died three years after the birth of their son, the subject of these slight and imperfect notices, who was born on the twenty-eighth of September, in the year 1746.

His father, whom the patronage of the Lord Chancellor Parker had several years before placed in a lucrative sinecure office, was enabled to leave his family in easy independence; and his mother, by whom the management of his earliest childhood had been most judiciously and carefully conducted, placed him, in his eighth year, at Harrow-school, then under the direction of Dr. Thackeray, a severe and capricious master. These impediments however neither lessened his application nor soured his temper; and the quickness of his apprehension, the strength of his memory, and his indefatigable industry, soon rendered him the wonder of the school, and marked him out to graver observers as one whose maturity could not fail of acquiring splendid distinction. Even his

churlish tutor loved to characterize him as "a boy of so active a mind that, if he were left naked and friendless on Salisbury Plain, he would somehow find the road to fame and wealth." He left Harrow not only critically versed in the Greek and Latin tongues, but deeply imbued with a most refined classical taste; nor was his acquaintance with most of the living languages, his application to which had been the employment of his leisure hours and of his vacations, less extensive, or less elegantly cultivated. He made some progress while at school in the study of Hebrew, and had even commenced a slight acquaintance with the Arabic, on which small, and perhaps almost accidental, foundation he began unconsciously to raise that splendid structure of oriental literature which forms the chief monument to his memory.

In the spring of 1764 he became a student of University College, Oxford, and escaped, for the time, and indeed always, the dull technicality of a special pleader's office, so nearly useless to a mind constituted like his. It is said indeed that the established regularity of collegiate studies was in the beginning considerably irksome to him, but that the charm of a temper naturally compliant, joined to a conviction that the voluntary employment of his leisure had long been more profitable to him than the results of ordinary instruction, soon overcame his disgust. He had however so largely gathered the fruits of each that his appetite for knowledge at length craved for new and unaccustomed food, which he presently found in the renewed and more regular study of the languages, the history, and the laws, of the eastern world. The sources of intelligence on these subjects which the endless literary treasures amidst which he now found himself had lately opened to his view filled him with astonishment and delight, and so enthusiastically did he seize on this new object, that, meeting by chance in a short visit to London with a native of Aleppo, he persuaded the stranger to accompany him to Oxford as an assistant to his studies.

At this period an event occurred to him of the greatest promise to a young man in his situation. He had formed an intimacy

with Dr. Shipley, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, which, within a few years, produced, as we shall see, a closer connection, and was by this gentleman recommended to the late Earl Spencer, to undertake the charge of private tutor to his Lordship's eldest son, who now enjoys and ornaments that dignity. He entered on his office in the summer of 1765; was soon after elected a fellow of his college, a distinction and advantage which he had for some time anxiously coveted; and in 1767 made a short visit to the continent with the family of his pupil. While these matters were passing, he was still earnestly employed in his oriental studies, to which he had now added a strong inclination, and indeed some active essays, towards the acquisition of the Chinese. He composed also his Commentaries on "Asiatic Poetry," and transcribed an Eastern manuscript on Egypt and the river Nile. Soon after his return he accepted a commission which, after costing him much time and trouble, seems to have ended in disappointment. The King of Denmark, a monarch remarkable neither for taste nor munificence, was then in London, on a visit to his brother-in-law, King George the Third. He had brought with him a manuscript Life of Nadir Shah, in the Persic tongue, which he was desirous should be literally translated into French. It is needless to speak of the difficulties of such an undertaking, and sufficient to say that Mr. Jones executed it with credit, and received, for we hear of no other reward, a diploma appointing him a member of the Royal Academy of Copenhagen.

Having passed also the winter of 1769 abroad, with Lord Spencer's family, and with less devotion than usual to literary occupations, on the continent, he took leave soon after of his pupil, and, having now attained his twenty-fourth year, sat down seriously to form a prudent plan for his future life. That the views which had suggested the favourite studies of his latter years had been restricted merely to the gratification which he enjoyed in the prosecution of them, can hardly be supposed; while, on the other hand, the worldly advantages to be derived from a correct acquaintance with those languages, which would facilitate a more enlarged

and convenient intercourse with the natives of our immense Asiatic dependencies, were obvious. To cultivate those views necessarily required much time, and their final success might be liable to many adverse accidents. He determined therefore to adopt the profession to which his mother had originally destined him, and, on the nineteenth of September, 1770, was admitted into the Temple, and applied himself to the study of the law with as much apparent eagerness as had distinguished his application to his most favourite literary pursuits. These however were not in the mean time neglected. He seems now to have devoted his leisure hours to the muse; formed a plan for an epic poem; and revised, corrected, and augmented, a number of smaller pieces, chiefly consisting of translations from the Eastern languages, which, with two elegant dissertations in prose on oriental poetry, were published in a small volume in 1772.

The study however of his profession now engrossed nearly his whole attention, and we find him for some years detached from all literary and academical objects, unless we may reckon as such his having been elected in 1772 a fellow of the Royal Society, and having in the following year taken his degree of master of arts, as he had in 1768 that of bachelor. He published, it is true, in 1774, his "Asiatic Commentaries," but they had been for some years ready for the press; and devoted several of his leisure hours to preparing a translation of some of the orations of Isæus, which, for their relation to the Athenian laws of succession to property, might be considered as a professional exercise. He was called to the bar in 1774, where, though his practice was for some time neither abundant, nor marked by any one of those sudden starts towards celebrity which have frequently been so fortunate to barristers, he soon acquired a reputation which induced the Chancellor Bathurst, within two years, to appoint him a commissioner of bankrupts. He had, about this time, enlisted rather warmly as a political partisan, in which character, so frequently assumed by the young lawyers of that time, he had invariably condemned the conduct of ministers in the American war; and, soon after,

taking a more serious and decided part, enrolled his name in some of those active societies whose doctrines and practises so largely and so justly then excited the apprehensions of government, and of all moderate men. Lord North, to whom Mr. Jones's views and pretensions had become known, was now induced, as much by his kind feelings as a man, as by his policy as a minister, to give him reason to expect at no distant period a nomination to a judicial seat in India, a station to which his hopes and his studies had been long secretly directed. This prospect, though not likely to be presently verified, again led him, and with increased ardour, to the subjects which had so long employed his pen, and delighted his mind. He completed a translation of "seven ancient poems" of the highest fame in Arabia; and, as a work peculiarly suited to his present object, translated also another poem, on the Mohammedan law of succession to the property of intestates.

The accession of an administration suited to his political prejudices put him at length into possession of the station for which its predecessors had designed him, for, soon after Christmas, 1782, he was appointed a Judge of the supreme Court at Fort William, on which occasion he was knighted. Before his departure to India, which was deferred only to the succeeding April, he put the seal to an attachment of some years' standing by his marriage to Anna Maria Shipley, eldest daughter of his friend the Bishop of St. Asaph, which lady accompanied him in his voyage. During its continuance he planned and began to compose certain works which he proposed to publish soon after his arrival; the Gospel of St. Luke, in Arabic; the Psalms, in Persian verse; and several legal pieces in each of those languages. At length he reached Calcutta in the following September. He had now to prepare for the new character he was to assume, and he lost no time in the judicious and conscientious discharge of that duty, and of all means most important, and indeed necessary, to that end; the first was to gain a clear and correct knowledge of the Sanscrit tongue, in which the Hindoo laws, religious and civil, are recorded. The comple-

tion of this task, even with all the aids of which his oriental learning had already made him master, cost him incredible labour, and the design to which he proposed in the first instance to apply it was yet more stupendous. He meditated to prepare a complete digest of the Hindoo and Mohammedan laws, and had secured the countenance and assistance of the English government in India to the fruition of his great project. During the five years which were chiefly devoted to it, this very extraordinary man found time to establish a scientific society in Calcutta, of whose transactions, as the publication of them will prove, he was the chief director, and to engage in a variety of other literary undertakings, not to mention the very extensive correspondence which he constantly carried on with his learned friends in Europe.

Thus passed the ten years of Sir William Jones's sojournment in India, admired, honoured, and beloved, not less by the natives than by his own countrymen, nor more distinguished by the extent of his talents and learning, and the beauty of language in which he was used to clothe them, than by the noble simplicity of his conduct and the sweetness of his temper, in all the affairs of private life, or the purity, humanity, and justice, which equally shone in the enlightened discharge of his judicial duties. The period however to this splendid course was unhappily at hand. In April, 1794, when apparently in perfect health, he was seized by a sudden indisposition, which presently betrayed all the symptoms of the fearful disease so freqently fatal in that climate, an inflammation of the liver, which, with uncommon rapidity, terminated his existence on the twenty-seventh of that month, when he died without issue.

Portraits of illustrious personages of Great Britain